

SPRING SESSION MEETING NOTES

- 1. Welcome** – Welcome and thank you for attending our **Spring 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. We would like to get a round of applause for all our Team Captains and Co-Captains. They work hard to run their team efficiently and lead them to victory. Also, if any Team Captains and Co-Captains have never gotten a Captain or Co-Captain Patch, please see Joyce after this meeting to get one.
- 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 Birmingham APA T-Shirts)**
- 4. Team Captain Roster Rumble** – Following this meeting, we will have our LAST *Team Captain Roster Rumble* for this past pool year. All Team Captains who compete in this Rumble will become eligible to compete in our *Team Captain Vegas Qualifier* which will be held in June. Sorry, but this tourney is ONLY for Team Captains. Our Roster Rumble and Vegas Qualifier rules were made available to you when you signed in for this meeting. You had to be a Team Captain for at least TWO sessions to be able to participate. Since our Vegas APA Team Captain Championship was put in place after last Summer Session had already started, if you are a Team Captain this session and will also be one next session, you are eligible to compete. If you registered by our registration deadline, the EARLY entry fee was **\$20.00** and **\$30.00** for all late entries. Birmingham APA adds an additional \$10.00 into the tourney for EVERY entry. All entry fee money goes toward travel expenses for the TWO teams who will make it to Vegas. There will be NO MONEY paid out but today's Champions and Runner-Ups will win trophies. Please remember that, all Team Captains who compete in today's Roster Rumble will become eligible to compete in our *Team Captain Vegas Qualifier*. If you haven't yet registered to play, please do so after this meeting.
- 5. Regional Qualifier Boards** – If you're NOT an eligible Team Captain, don't worry, we will also be running some special Double Elimination Splash Board Qualifiers and Single Elimination Qualifier Boards after this meeting that you may be eligible to compete on. As long as you have at played at least 10 matches in the past 2 years in 8-Ball or 9-Ball, you can compete on that Qualifier Board.

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These boards will get you qualified for our *APA Fall Regionals*, which will be held the first of October here in Birmingham.

The Splash Boards **MUST** have a full 16 players per board and the entry fee is \$40.00. 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 to our Fall Regionals. Our regular Qualifier Boards are made up of 8 players with only a \$20.00 entry fee. However, these boards are Single Elimination and each board only qualifies **ONE** player.

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

7. Last Session Meeting Reminders

- a. Session Tri-Cup Changes** – At our last Session meeting, we discussed some changes to our Session Tri-Cups. These changes were made to accommodate the amazing growth of our League and to help our Tri-Cups get completed quicker and easier for our players. All of our Session Tri-Cups are now only **ONE** round so, beat **ONE** team and you are qualified for our APA World Qualifiers aka City Championships. This allows **MORE** teams, almost double, the opportunity to make it to our League's biggest Tourney. How this increase in teams affect our City Championship will be discussed shortly. We are no longer taking Champion team pics so teams can get finished quicker and get out to enjoy the rest of their weekend. Each Champion Team has the choice to go ahead and receive their Tri-Cup Champion Medals that day or they will be sent out to your team in your Team Packet by the following week. We also decided to discontinue issuing APA Bucks at our Tri-Cups and have redistributed those funds to new payouts at our City Championships which will be discussed later.
- b. Top Shot Tourneys** – Due to so much stuff going on during our Summer Session and after listening to feedback from our players, we decided to remove our Summer Session Top Shot Tourneys from our schedule. Our Top Shot Tourneys will now be held at the beginning and the end of each fiscal year during our Spring and Fall Sessions. This makes each Top Shot Tourney even more important and should increase attendance and payouts in each.
- c. Online Renewal Contest** – This past Fall Session, we held an Online Renewal Contest where everyone had a chance to win prizes by just renewing their APA Membership online in November and December, instead of waiting until January. Since your APA membership **MUST** be renewed by your first match each January, this gave everyone a chance to win some cool stuff while helping to reduce the issues that some teams have from their players not paying their membership dues on time. This contest went over great and **THREE** players won autographed cues from *Jeanette Lee, The Black Widow*, and others won **FREE** League

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play and complimentary membership dues. Our contest went over so well that, when Jeanette called me the other day, to discuss how we do our Roster Rumbles, we worked out an early arrangement to do the contest again in this year's Fall Session. Joyce and I are also looking forward to playing her in a League Operator Pool Tourney this April in Vegas.

- 8. New Membership Dues Guidelines** – Starting this next session, you will see a new way that we will be handling unpaid APA Membership Dues. You must be a paid APA member for your scores to be inputted and counted for your team so, in the past, if someone played but did NOT pay their Membership Dues, we paid the player and added their dues to their team's past due team fees. Since more and more players are playing on multiple teams, this was no longer working. A player may play on one team and not pay their dues so the dues were added to that team and it started costing them their Bonus Points. Then the player would pay it on a different night on another team which would cause the payment to be applied to the wrong team in error. Also, there have been times when a new player was recruited by a team, they played their matches without paying the necessary membership dues, then never showed back up for the team, thus leaving the team with their unpaid membership dues as a PAST DUE amount on that team.

To stop this confusion and to hold the individual player responsible for any unpaid membership dues, the following procedures have been approved and set into our local Bylaws:

- Players who play, but DON'T pay their membership dues, will be marked "PAID" in our system. They will also have "PENDING", and the amount owed, marked by their name. "PENDING" players will not be allowed to play again, or be used for the 23-point rule, until these unpaid dues are paid and their "PENDING" status has been cleared by your APA League Office.
- ANY MATCHES played by a player marked "PENDING" will be FORFEITED BY BOTH TEAMS.
- A player marked "PENDING", who is also on multiple teams and pays their dues on a specific team, will still NOT be able to play on their other teams until their unpaid dues is received by your APA League Office and their "PENDING" status is cleared. Teams may contact their APA League Office to make sure a player's "PENDING" status is cleared.

We feel that these new procedures will help eliminate the past issues that we have experienced in the past with unpaid membership dues. The BEST solution for all teams is to follow our APA Corporate rules and NOT play someone unless they are a PAID APA member. Teams who continue to add and play someone who is NOT an APA member will be held accountable for their unpaid membership dues.

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9. Pro-Cut Pockets – Today's billiard equipment has come a LONG way from what it used to be. Better materials are being used and the billiard industry has exploded with affordable pool cues and tables that will help anybody's game. Everybody loves these new Diamond tables that are quickly replacing most of the bar tables in our Birmingham area, RIGHT? They play better and roll much truer than the majority of the tables that we have had in the past. However, most of these tables have Pro-Cut Pockets and we've have noticed that some players' skill levels increase significantly faster due to playing on tables with these types of pockets. The pockets are narrower so you can't "cheat" them like you may be able to on standard Valley Tables' "bucket" pockets. These narrower pockets will actually make your game get better because you have to fine-tune your shots to make sure the balls enter the pocket correctly and don't "bobble" out. Just remember that if your skill level is increasing quicker than you have seen other players increase in the past, there is a reason for it. You are adjusting your game to be more consistent and precise which in turn makes you a better player in the long run.

10. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO Birmingham APA VIP Passes)

11. 2018 APA World Qualifier Changes – Most of you have heard by now that this year's APA World Qualifiers, or City Championships, will now be single-elimination. Earlier, we discussed how our Tri-Cups going to only one round almost doubles the number of teams who now get the opportunity to compete in our City Championships. This increase in teams and the need to complete each of our WQs smoothly and in one weekend, is why we are going to single-elimination rounds in our City Championships. For those of you who want more details on how we came to this decision, please check our Fall Session Meeting Notes that can be found in our Captains Corner on our website.

However, just because our WQs will now be single-elimination doesn't mean that they aren't going to be as SPECIAL anymore. More teams make for an even bigger and exciting event. Also, we are making other surprising changes that will benefit all the teams who are skilled (or lucky) enough to have the chance to compete in our WQs. You can take notes if you want, but I will be posting today's Meeting Notes in our Captain's Corner by the first of the week. Let's get started:

- a) We will be going back to having the first round on Friday night for both the 8-Ball and 9-Ball WQs. For our 8-Ball WQ, we will then have 3 rounds on Saturday and ONLY TWO rounds on Sunday. For our 9-Ball WQ, we will then have ONLY 2 rounds on Saturday and ONLY TWO rounds on Sunday.
- b) In the past, only the top TWO teams of each bracket won something. Actually, before Joyce and I took over, the City Champions were the only teams who received an award and a trip

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to Vegas. How many of you remember this? I personally experienced it many times. Your team could come and compete hard the entire long weekend and get knocked out in the Finals and not receive anything. We changed that within the first year by rewarding the Runner-Up teams as well. Now, we are going to add even more to it. ALL TEAMS who make it to our City Championship will leave with something! It doesn't matter if your team get beats out the first round or not. In 8-Ball, teams who get beat out in Rounds 1 thru 4 will receive an \$80.00 Team Fee credit for the Summer Session. In 9-Ball, teams who get beat out in Rounds 1 thru 3 receive an \$80.00 Team Fee credit for the Summer Session. Teams who get beat out in the Semi-Finals of each WQ will receive \$120.00 Team Fee Credit.

- c) In the round before each Semi-Finals, not only will the losing teams receive \$80.00 in Team Fee credit, each team will have a 1 out of 4 chance of being drawn out to be placed in our SECOND CHANCE bracket. Those SECOND CHANCE TEAMS will then only have to win ONE more round to become a WQ Runner-Up team and earn a spot in the APA SE Challenge. If they win TWO rounds, they will become WQ Champions and earn a Vegas spot.
- d) In each WQ, there will now be FIVE WQ Champion teams who will qualify for our APA World Pool Championships in Las Vegas. *Birmingham APA* will pay the \$250.00 entry fee into the event and all travel expense monies will now be paid out by PLAYER and NOT by the whole team. Each player that attends and competes in our APA World Pool Championships will now be guaranteed **\$1,000.00** for travel expenses. Each team will also receive around \$350.00 from APA Corporate when they arrive and register.
- e) In each WQ, there will now be FIVE WQ Runner-Up teams who will qualify for our APA Southeast Challenges which are currently held in Atlanta. *Birmingham APA* will pay the \$440.00 entry and green fees for each of the SE Challenge teams. We will also include \$100.00 in travel expense monies to each player who attends. However, due to issues that we have recently experienced, all SE Challenge teams will not receive these funds until they register at the event.
- f) At each WQ, we are also looking into doing some drawings for some Vegas Experience trips for players who competed in our WQs but weren't on a Champion or Runner-Up team. If we can't do it this year, we plan on doing it in years to come.

As you can see, we are doing our best to make sure that our *APA World Qualifiers* are the event that everyone wants to be a part of. Of course, all of these payout figures are based on our current growth and number of teams. However, if all 10 Vegas teams have full rosters of 8 players

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who attends the event, the monies paid out, including entry fees, is over \$82,000.00. If you add in the additional \$30,000.00 for the SE Challenge monies, Team Fee Credits, and our Prize Wheel gifts, our APA World Qualifiers will be paying out over \$110,000.00 each year. That's pretty amazing, right?

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

13. APA Adventure Divisions – We are planning on trying to build some new *APA Adventure Divisions* in the near future. Our goal is to start our first one on Thursdays at Bumpers Billiards for our upcoming Fall Session. Not only will these divisions qualify teams for our APA World Qualifiers but it will also qualify them to win an adventure to another exciting destination. The destinations that we are considering are all-inclusive trips to the Bahamas, Jamaica, Cancun, Hawaii, and other popular vacation spots. The Team Fees for these divisions will obviously be more but they will be reasonable for what you are playing for. We are currently in our planning stages and working out the costs associated with these Adventure trips. How many of you like this idea and would be interested in joining one of our Adventure Divisions?

14. 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?

15. Meeting Ends - We have one more drawing to do then we will be getting ready for our *Team Captain Roster Rumble* and our Regional Board Qualifiers. Please make sure that you see Michael Glass to get registered for our *Roster Rumble*. For those of you who want to get qualified for our APA Fall Regionals, Michael can help you get signed up for one of these boards. Joyce and I hope you all have a wonderful APA Spring Break and we want to wish GOOD LUCK to all our players who are competing in Las Vegas in a couple of weeks. We look forward to seeing you all in our Summer Session. Thank you all for coming today and for being part of our *Birmingham APA League*!

16. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) - (TWO \$50.00 Bills)