

SPRING SESSION MEETING NOTES

- 1. Welcome** – Welcome and thank you for attending our **Spring Session Meeting!** As usual, I would REALLY appreciate you all giving me your full attention. Please show respect during this meeting by keeping the chit chat down to a minimum. Remember that, you are here representing certain teams so it's your responsibility to relay any important info and changes to your team members.
I'm sorry that I haven't been able to visit with everyone this session as much as I normally do. My heart surgery came as a big surprise for me and has put a kink into my normal routine. Actually, today marks TWO months since my surgery. It's been a stressful and emotional rollercoaster and I want to THANK everyone for the love and support I received before and after my surgery. This hasn't been an easy time for Joyce and me, so we really appreciate everyone who reached out to us. We love all of you!
- 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. Speaking of tabs, let's draw for a couple of them.
- 3. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO Bar Tabs)**
- 4. Team Captains & Co-Captains** – Our League is really made up of THREE kind of teams. We have those teams who are just playing to get together and have FUN with their friends and family. They're not really too worried if they make it to our APA Championships in Las Vegas. We also have those teams who are HIGHLY competitive, and their main goal is to make to Vegas every year. Then we have those teams that are a mixture of both. They like to party and have fun, but they would LOVE to do it in Vegas, so they can be competitive also.

It doesn't matter what type of team, or teams, that you are part of. The backbone of any team has always been our Team Captains. I'm sure there has been plenty of times that, they wondered WHY they took on that responsibility. I know that I had those moments when I was a Team Captain and, now as a League Operator, there are plenty of times that I wish I JUST had the worries of a Team Captain. LOL Our Team Captains are the LEADERS of our League and they put a lot effort into running their team.

I would like to take this time to give them recognition so, please stand if you are a Team Captain. Please give them the props they deserve! (Start Applause) We appreciate you all. 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. We hope the new designs will be in stock before the next meeting.

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5. **Fall Regional Qualifier Boards** – After this meeting, we will be running some APA Qualifier Boards. These boards will qualify players for our *APA Fall Singles Regionals* which will be held in Huntsville this coming October. If you didn't get to play in our recent Top Shot Tournaments, or you played and didn't earn a Regional Slot, this may be one of your LAST chances to do so. To be eligible to compete on a Qualifier Board, you must have at least 10 scores, in the last two years, in the same format as the board (8-Ball and/or 9-Ball). If we have enough to run our special Double-Elimination Splash Qualifier Boards, we will do so. The entry fee for our Splash Boards is \$40.00 and \$20.00 to enter our regular Single-Elimination Qualifier Boards. We will need at least 16 players for our Splash Board and a maximum of 8 players for our regular Qualifier Boards. All Team Captains will receive a \$10.00 discount on any of these Qualifier Boards. A sign-up list for these boards was available when you signed in for this meeting, but you can also see Michael Glass after the meeting to get on one.

6. **I Beat The League Operator Patch** – Even though, I'm not quite back up to speed, I plan on playing a few players TODAY for for the elusive *I Beat The League Operator* patch. We have a sign-up list for the opportunity to play for this special patch as well. If you haven't already got on the list, you can sign up after the meeting because it doesn't matter when you sign the list. I will start by drawing out 5 players from the list in a blind draw. Since that may be all I can play today, I ask that ONLY players who have NEVER won the patch get signed up.

Once I finish KICKING THEIR ASS, I mean PLAY those five, I will see if I feel well enough to draw out a couple more. I don't want to overdue it today. To keep things moving quickly, we won't play a full handicap race. It will be a straight race to 3. I do ask for at least one practice games first, since I haven't shot in months.

7. Important Fall Session Meeting Highlights

a. **APA App** – During our last meeting, we discussed our APA App. If you haven't heard of our APP yet, it's time to leave your folk's house or move out of your cave. APA Corporate has steadily been working on it to get rid of bugs and add new features. How many of you have downloaded and use our App? It's pretty cool, huh? They will continue to work on adding new features for the future.

b. **APA Electronic Scorekeeping** – We also discussed that, APA Corporate was working on an electronic scorekeeping App to be used for your League matches. I was actually invited to be part of a League Operator Tech Group which is providing input for our various APA software applications. Although I do know that our APA Tech Team is making progress, we still don't expect a working prototype. It will still probably be the beginning of next year.

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- c. **New Patch Record Sheet** – In our Fall Meeting, we also talked about the new Patch Record Sheet that we were starting this session. The sheet actually evolved into a Patch ENVELOPE with the Patch Record Sheet printed on them. This gives teams a place to keep track of the patches that their team members earn each week. It also provides one central envelope that everyone can find their patches in. This method has worked out well and is allowing us to be more accurate when awarding patches that are earned. We plan on continuing doing this in our future sessions.
8. **Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO APA Ball Caps)**
9. **Team Fee Increase** – When we first became League Operators, the previous League Operator had just increased team fees. The majority of complaints we kept hearing at that time were NOT about the extra money. The increase was ONLY \$5.00 per team which, divided between the players who played that night, was ONLY an extra \$1.00 per person. The main complaint was that it was a SURPRISE. We decided then to always note in our local Bylaws the next time we would have an increase in Team Fees so everyone could be expecting it. The exact year of the increase can be found under the *Birmingham APA League Fees* section located in your copy of the Bylaws that we provide in your Team Packets every session. Your local Bylaws can also be accessed in PDF format on our website and in your APA App.
- Our Team Fee increase is scheduled every FIVE years even though our business costs increase each year during that five year period. Our last increase was to \$40.00 per team in January 2015 which means that this increase will be to **\$45.00 per team in January 2020**. As in the past, it's only a \$5.00 increase which amounts to only \$1.00 per person. Our increase has actually come at a good time due to some future things we have planned for our players. In those plans, is an increase to the number of teams, from 5 to 6, that we send to our *APA World Pool Championships*. Sending more teams to Vegas also means sending more Runner-Ups to our *APA SE Challenges*. We project that we will be sending these additional teams by August 2021, if not before. More teams mean more fun with your friends in Vegas, RIGHT?
10. **Unpaid APA Players** – For years, we have tried to be lenient regarding Apa Membership Dues. We have also tried to stress the importance of NOT playing anyone who is NOT a current APA Member. The Corporate rule is that players MUST be an APA member for their scores to count for your team. Unfortunately, some teams are still fielding players who are NOT paid APA members. Because of this, we are being forced to more strictly follow our APA Corporate guidelines for these situations. Starting in our Summer Session, teams who field an UNPAID player in a match will receive **0 points** for that player's match and **NO Bonus Points** will be given

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to their team. The unpaid player will then be marked paid and “(\$**DUE)” by their name. If the same unpaid player is NOT PAID by the following week, their Membership Dues will be deducted from the submitted Team Fees. That team will receive NO Bonus Points from that point on until the unpaid Membership Dues/Team Fees are paid in full. These Bonus Points can NOT be regained. Does anyone have any questions regarding this?

11. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO Papa John's Large Pizzas)

12. New APA Facebook Groups – We are considering creating a few special Facebook Groups for our League. These groups will be designed for specific purposes and player interaction. One of the groups will be a *Birmingham APA Memorial* in memory of those Birmingham APA players who have passed on from this life. We had considered doing this in the past but just never got around to it due to the time restraints of running our League. Players will be able to post a pic and special thoughts about those who have left us. Another group could be our APA Bulletin Board. We would post tourneys and events there. Players can also use this group to communicate with each other regarding rescheduling or make-up matches. We have a wide diverse group of players with different jobs and careers. We could also have a group that acts as an APA Career Center. In our APA Career Center, they would be able to post what services or goods that they can provide for other players to be able to use or purchase. They could even post job openings or requests for work. Raise your hand if you think these groups would be beneficial! On your Meeting Agenda, please mark the mentioned groups you feel would be of interest to you. If you have your own idea for a special group, please write it on the provided blank lines. PLEASE PRINT your ideas so we can read them easily, then turn them in the sheet to Joyce after the meeting.

13. Tweaks to our APA World Qualifiers (City Championships) – This year's *APA World Qualifiers* will be here before you know it. Due to our growth and the number of teams competing, we had to change to a single-elimination format last year. After it was completed, we sent out a survey to get input on some possible changes. Due to the survey along with other factors, here are the new tweaks that will take place this year:

- We will NO longer be doing a modified blind draw for our WQ Brackets. Once we place the teams, who have 3 or more common players in a bracket, we will then do a regular BLIND DRAW. That draw will determine where you go on a bracket even if you draw out a team from your division or another team that you are also on. We will either do this LIVE at a central location or we will live stream the drawing on Facebook. To save time, we may draw out teams who are already qualified before our Spring Tri-Cups this May, then draw out the rest once the Tri-Cups are complete and the advancing teams determined.

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- Every year, we bring in 32 Diamond Tables for our APA WQs. In the past, to help pay for these tables, players have had to use quarters or, starting last year, purchase special \$1.00 tokens. This meant they had to purchase the tokens and repurchase them when they ran out. To avoid the hassle of players dealing with quarters or the \$1.00 tokens, we have decided to try a different way this year. We will now OPEN all the tables throughout all our *APA World Qualifiers*. During the week between the events, you will only need to present your Driver's License at the *Pelham Civic Complex Ticket Office* to get a set of balls and shoot on the tables. HOWEVER, for us to eliminate the Tokens and still be able to rent all the premium Diamond tables that everyone enjoys, each team will now pay a small entry fee when they sign-in for each weekend. This will be a ONE TIME fee which will include FREE practice and match time throughout the event.

Since some teams may not have the same number of eligible players competing, we are going to base the entry fee on the number of eligible players on each team's WQ roster. Since most players usually get at least **\$10.00** of tokens or quarters to start with anyway, we felt that **\$10.00 per player** would be a reasonable and fair entry fee. This means if your team has 8 eligible players who sign your certification statement to compete in our WQs, your entry fee will be a total of \$80.00. If your team only has 5 eligible players who compete, your entry fee will only be \$50.00. We felt this was the fairest way to do this instead of just charging a straight \$80.00 per team.

This WQ entry fee will eliminate all players from having to purchase and keep up with the \$1.00 Tokens. By opening the tables, this will also reduce the down time due to problems that we always seem to have with the Token mechs and the balls getting hung up in the ball return area. Contrary to popular belief, Diamond Tables mess up just like Valleys and all the others. By preventing most of this down time, the time saved can mean the difference of your team going to Sudden Death or not. As an added BENEFIT, please keep in mind that MOST of your team entry fees, if not ALL or MORE, will be received back to each team in the form of team credits as we PAY OUT the teams who lose out.

- Since some teams will play on Friday night where others will start on Saturday morning, teams will be notified at least 4 days in advance of what round they will start in. **Sorry but teams will NOT have a choice of which round they will start.** Please keep in mind that, due to the BLIND DRAW, some players may play both Friday night and then again Saturday morning on another team. We will have TWO separate Team Registrations and WQ Meetings, one on Friday night and the other on Saturday morning.

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- We will still recognize and list all the players who will earn our APA Match Awards this year in our WQ Program Book. However, to keep from disturbing matches, we won't be calling out names during the rounds. We will ask those players to come up during certain allotted times to receive their Award and get their picture taken for our Facebook Gallery. If we live stream the blind draw before our WQs, we may even announce all the Award Recipients at that time.
- We also give out prizes every year at our WQs. Instead of interrupting everyone or making players be present at a certain time for these prizes, we have decided NOT to have our Prize Wheel this year. Instead, we will draw for prizes during the first round on Friday night and then again on Saturday morning. Each prize will be announced then a winner will be drawn out. Each winner will have 30 minutes to come get their prize or another name will be drawn. The drawing will ONLY be from eligible team members who are scheduled to play in that specific round. Since we will be drawing during two rounds, this means MORE prizes will be drawn.
- Our WQ bracket payout structure, for teams who lose out, may get adjusted some but probably not by much. We are still working on that. We will also have our Second Chance Bracket again, but we are changing where, on the regular brackets, it will be filled from. After further consideration and player input, our Second Chance Bracket will now be filled from the losing teams of our **Semi-Final Rounds**. Like last year, Second Chance teams will be drawn out with a 1 out of 4 chance of staying in and advancing to the next round. We felt it only fair that the Semi-Finalists have the opportunity of the draw since they made it that far. They beat enough teams to be well deserving of the Second Chance to advance. This means that our Second Chance teams will now only have ONE MORE match to win, and NOT two, to earn a Vegas Slot.

Please keep in mind that, once we start sending SIX teams in each format to Las Vegas, we will have to make other changes to our WQs as well. For example, we may not even have a Second Chance Bracket then. However, we feel that these current changes will provide a better experience for the majority of our players who compete in this year's *APA World Qualifiers*. We are really excited to see which teams will win in this year's *APA WQs* and advance to represent our *Birmingham APA League* in our *APA World Pool Championships* held in August in Las Vegas.

14. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO APA Collectible Cue Balls & Display Base)

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15. 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?

16. Meeting Ends – We have one more drawing to do for two \$50.00 Bills. Afterwards, we will be getting ready to run our Regional Board Qualifiers. If you haven't already, see Michael Glass to sign-up to play on a Qualifier Board. This may be your LAST chance to win a spot in our APA Fall Regionals. If you're feeling froggy, see Joyce and Annie to get signed up to play for the *I Beat The League Operator* patch but don't get your feelings hurt if it's harder to win than you thought. I do ask that ONLY our Birmingham APA players who have NEVER won the patch, get on the list. I may only have about 5 matches in me today. Please be patient with us while we get everything organized and ready to start. Spend your time doing what you love, practicing, eating, and drinking. Also, BEFORE YOU LEAVE, please don't forget to pay any tab you started and take care of Poppa's staff.

Joyce and I hope that these final weeks of our Spring Session go great for you and your teams. Good luck in your Division Playoffs and have a great APA Spring Break. We look forward to seeing you all in our Summer Session which starts on **May 6**. Thank you all for coming today and for being part of our *Birmingham APA League*!

17. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO \$50.00 Bills)