

SUMMER SESSION MEETING NOTES

1. **Welcome** – Welcome and thank you for attending our **Summer 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 and it is your responsibility to listen and relay any important info and changes to your team members.

We always like to start off by getting a round of applause for all our Team Captains and Co-Captains. Let's give it up! 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.

Normally, I would be playing for the elusive "*I Beat The League Operator*" patch later today after the meeting but unfortunately, I won't be able to. We had a death in the family and must leave right after this meeting to head to the Memorial in Pensacola. I promise to make some time this next session for those of you who want to try and win this patch.

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 FIRST *Team Captain Roster Rumble* for this 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 have to be a Team Captain of a regular Open League team or a Ladies 8-Ball Team Captain during this pool year. 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.

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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. These boards will get you qualified for our *APA Spring Regionals*, which will be held the first of March 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. Last Session Meeting Reminders

- a. **New Membership Dues Guidelines** – All players MUST be a paid APA member for us to input their scores for your team. At the beginning of this session, we started marking "Pending" on players who played a match but didn't pay their APA Membership Dues. The full reasons why are shown in our Spring Session Notes in our website's Captains Corner. Matches that were played by a "PENDING" player would cause a FORFEIT for both teams. We are happy to say that no team had to forfeit any matches for playing a "pending" player this session.
- b. **Pro-Cut Pockets** – In the last meeting, we explained how the Pro-Cut Pockets that are found on most of the new Diamond tables are making everyone's pool game better. You have to be more accurate and shoot more precise to pocket balls on these tables. Obviously, when players' precision increases, so do their skill levels. This is why you may see some players moving up quicker than usual.
- c. **APA World Qualifier Changes** – This past June, we had to change the format of our World Qualifiers from Modified-Single Elimination to Single Elimination. We also started paying out Team Credits to teams when they lost out of our WQs. This wasn't something we wanted to do but really had no choice due to our tremendous growth in the past couple of years. We felt everything went pretty smooth and even had many players tell us how they liked the new format. Of course, we had those who didn't like it as well. We explained in detail the reasoning for the change in our last Session Meeting. Again, the notes from this meeting can be found in our website's Captains Corner. We also gave more details including

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the Pros and Cons of both Modified-Single Elimination and Single Elimination in our recent High Level Tourney Survey. This survey asked for input from our players, regarding our *Session Tri-Cups* and *APA World Qualifiers*, that we will use to help us make any needed changes for future events.

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

8. APA High Level Tourney Survey Results – When you signed in for the meeting, you received a copy of our HLT Survey that we recently sent out. The survey was intended to give us some feedback about our *Session Tri-Cups* and *APA World Qualifiers*. This survey was sent to 1,250 of our players and we had 246 responses. Since this is only a 20% response rate, we have to assume that the majority of our players are happy with whatever we do or don't care enough to give their opinions. These surveys will not completely determine any future changes, but they do help provide us with input when these decisions are being made. I'm going to briefly go over the results and what they may mean in the future. (Refer to the Survey results.)

9. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) - (TWO APA Ball Caps)

10. Early-Bird Registration & Bonus Points - Most of you know that around the 3rd month of each session, you will start seeing an orange Early-Bird Registration Sheet in your Team Packets each week. We would like to think that every team wants to return and play each session, but we don't take any of our teams and players for granted. This sheet is provided to make it easy for teams to let us know that they will be returning next session. We make it very easy with a choice of 3 check boxes:

- YES, we are playing next session with no changes.
- No, our team is NOT playing next session.
- YES, we are playing next session with the below changes. (Then there is a spot to make any roster, team name, or leadership changes.

Pretty easy, huh. Mark the appropriate box and place it back in your Team Packet, by the deadline, to receive Early-Bird Bonus Points for the next session. The deadline is always the same final deadline for any Make-Up matches, which is the last Friday before we reach the final 2 weeks before our Division Playoffs. This helps us start getting next session's division schedules ready and find out which teams may need players.

However, EVERY session, there seems to be those teams who don't fill them out by the deadline. MOST of the time, they are the SAME teams each session. Since we don't take our teams for

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granted, we have to stop and try to contact those teams to confirm if they are playing or not. It doesn't matter if you're one of those teams that have played EVERY SESSION since the "Dawn of Time". We want to make sure and not just ASSUME that you are playing. We also need to know if your team should be scheduled in your Division Playoffs or advance to our Session Tri-Cups. There is really no sense in your team competing in your Division Playoffs if you're NOT staying active next session to compete in your Session Tri-Cups. Another team, who will be active, may LOVE to have your spot.

Due to our growth and the time it takes processing scoresheets now, we can NO LONGER stop and contact teams who have NOT took the time to make an "X" and turn in their Early-Bird Registration Form. If your form is NOT marked and turned in by the deadline, then your team will NOT get your Early-Bird Bonus Points for the next session. This may affect those teams who play in strong and competitive divisions where EVERY POINT COUNTS. Every session, there are many teams who didn't win their Division or make their Playoffs by just 1 or 2 points.

For teams who did NOT register for next session, we will send out an email in the last week of the session to confirm if your team will be playing or not. You still won't get your Early-Bird Bonus Points, but it would let us know if your team needs to advance. If we don't get a response from your team at that time, we will NOT include you in your Division Playoffs and next session's schedules. This process can't be made any easier so PLEASE help us by turning in your form by the Early-Bird Deadline.

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

12. **Online Renewal Contest** – During our last 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 play and complimentary membership dues. We have already started preparing for this contest again but may start it in Oct instead of Nov. Watch next session for our emails and Facebook posts regarding this contest.

13. **NEW APA Member Starting Skill Levels** - If any of you have checked out the new streamlined APA Official Team Manual, you may have seen a paragraph about changes to the starting skill levels for new players. Currently, new APA guys start as a SL 4 in both while our new Ladies start

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as a SL 3 in 8-Ball and a SL 2 in 9-Ball. With all the gender issues that have arisen, APA has decided to change their policy. Starting **December 1, 2018**, all new members will start as a SL 3. It won't matter if your male or female or if it's 8-Ball or 9-Ball. Everyone will start as a SL 3 after December 1st. Now, if only APA Corporate will just make a Super 7 skill level, all will be right in the pool World. Can I please hear a "Halleluiah" or an "Amen"? LOL

14. Q & A – Everything we covered today, including any attachments given out, will be made available in PDF format on our *Birmingham APA* website this next week. To find it, just look 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*. If you're NOT a Team Captain or we don't have enough for our Roster Rumbles, take advantage of the time to get qualified for next March's APA Spring Regionals. Michael can help you get signed up for one of these boards as well.

Joyce and I hope you all have a wonderful APA Summer 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 Fall 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**)