

Constant Contact Survey Results

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SURVEYS

Our Birmingham APA League has a 3-Level Playoff System to get our teams qualified for the APA World Pool Championships which are held each year in Las Vegas. Teams compete each Session to finish high enough in their Division standings to reach our first playoff level which is our Division Playoffs. In these Division Playoffs, the top finishing teams compete in one round against other top teams in their Division. The winners advance to our second playoff level, our Session Tri-Cups. The winners of our Session Tri-Cups advance to our APA World Qualifiers. Winners of our APA World Qualifiers advance to the annual APA World Pool Championships. Questions 1-4 are regarding our Session Tri-Cups. Questions 5-8 are regarding our APA World Qualifiers. Questions 9-10 are regarding the Pelham Civic Complex.

SESSION TRI-CUPS

Our Session Tri-Cups are regional playoffs in which all the Division Playoff winners, from each of our weekly Divisions along with some Division Champions, compete against each other in one round to advance to our third playoff level which is our APA World Qualifiers (WQs). Please answer the following questions regarding our Session Tri-Cups.

Our Session Tri-Cups are currently held as a High Level Tournament (HLT). In this format, all players will only get ONE time-out (no matter your skill level), special HLT patches are awarded, and a Sudden Death time is in effect. We also have a choice to host our Session Tri-Cups as a regular Playoff match. In this format, players whose skill level is 3 and below would get TWO time-outs, regular League patches would be awarded, and Sudden Death would STILL be in effect to make sure we can complete our Session Tri-Cups in one day.

Which format would you prefer for our Session Tri-Cups?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
High Level Tournament Format - 1 Time-Out and HLT patches			162	65.9 %
Playoff Format - 2 Time-Outs (SL 3 and below) and regular League patches			84	34.1 %
Totals			246	100%

Our Session Tri-Cups are currently played in a ONE round Single-Elimination format. This means that teams need only beat one team to get qualified for our APA World Qualifiers (WQs). This allows us to complete our Session Tri-Cups in ONE Saturday and also allows more teams to get qualified for our APA WQs. If we had TWO round Session Tri-Cups, we would have to hold them on TWO days, Saturday and Sunday, and teams would have to beat TWO teams to get qualified for our APA WQs. However, TWO rounds would also reduce the number of teams who compete in our APA WQs.

Would you prefer a ONE or TWO round Session Tri-Cups?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
One Round Session Tri-Cups			156	63.4 %
Two Round Session Tri-Cups			90	36.6 %
Totals			246	100%

In our Session Tri-Cups, we have quit taking pics of our Champion teams right after they have won because some of their team members may have already left or couldn't be there that day. Also, by not having teams wait for pictures, it allowed these teams to leave right after their match to enjoy the rest of the weekend. We now have those Champion teams take their own team picture at their next League match, when everyone is there, and then send it to us to post in our Facebook Photo Gallery.

How do you feel our Session Tri-Cup pictures should be handled?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I want our team to take the picture during League and send it to you.			99	40.3 %
I want to wait around and have you take our picture at that Tri-Cup.			78	31.7 %
I don't need a picture. I know what I look like and that we are the Champions!			69	28.0 %
Totals			246	100%

Our Session Tri-Cups are basically an extension of our Division Playoffs and the main prize for our Tri-Cup Champions is earning a slot in our APA World Qualifiers. In our Session Tri-Cups, we also currently award Tri-Cup Champion Medals to each of the players on the Tri-Cup Champion team. We are trying to decide if these medals are really needed/wanted or if we should put the cost of these medals toward better prizes at our APA World Qualifiers.

How important are winning these Session Tri-Cup Medals to you?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I have plenty of BLING so I DON'T want them.			42	17.1 %
It doesn't matter to me because I just want the WQ SLOT.			106	43.1 %
I really WANT them to remember our Tri-Cup victory.			98	39.8 %
Totals			246	100%

APA WORLD QUALIFIERS

Our 8-Ball and 9-Ball APA World Qualifiers (WQs), also known as our City Championships, are held once a year in June. This is our biggest and most important event of the pool year. Winners of these two events advance to compete in that year's APA World Pool Championship which is held in August at the Westgate Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. Please answer the following questions regarding our APA World Qualifiers.

Currently, we do a Modified Blind Draw to seat teams in their APA World Qualifier (WQ) bracket. We also have the option of doing just a Standard Blind Draw to seat teams in our brackets. The only criteria that will be the SAME for both methods is that all teams, who have THREE or more common players, MUST be placed in the same bracket. This specific team seating is MANDATORY from our APA Corporate office because NO team can have more than TWO common players while competing in our annual APA World Pool Championships in Las Vegas. For you to make a better decision on which method you may prefer, please see the descriptions of our two draw methods.

STANDARD BLIND DRAW - This is the most common and quickest method for seating teams. We would still group the teams with THREE or more common players in the same bracket as APA Corporate requires. However, after those teams are seated, we would draw from all other teams to fill each slot in each bracket and you play whoever we draw. In the first round, you may meet one of the teams from your division that you know very well. Or, you may be seated against another team who has common players with your team. Since all common players are advised to sit out from the match when they compete against another team they are on (so they can advance with the winning team), this may give your team an advantage or a disadvantage depending on the match up. This method could be done in public at a specific venue, if time allows.

MODIFIED BLIND DRAW - This is our current method which is done in multiple steps and time consuming. First, we group the teams with THREE or more common players in the same bracket as APA Corporate requires. We draw and seat them in different spots of the bracket so they don't start off playing each other in the first couple of rounds. Then, we draw out of the qualified teams from the same divisions and seat them into different brackets. This helps keep some teams from playing the same teams that they usually play every session. After that, we draw within each bracket from the teams who have TWO or more common players and seat them in different spots in that bracket. This keeps teams, who have multiple common players, from meeting each other in the first round. If a team only has ONE common player, they may still meet up in the first round. Finally, we draw from the qualified teams who have NO common players and seat them in the various bracket spots that are still open.

Which draw method would you prefer for our APA World Qualifiers?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Standard Blind Draw			136	55.3 %
Modified Blind Draw			110	44.7 %
Totals			246	100%

We usually hold both our 8-Ball APA World Qualifiers and 9-Ball APA World Qualifiers in ONE weekend, Friday-Sunday, for each of them. We did this because we have a LOT of players who work in the Restaurant/Bar, Real Estate, HVAC, and Construction Industries which require weekend working hours. By keeping it to one weekend for each format, it allowed these players who worked weekends, or planned vacation trips during this time frame, to need only plan their schedule around those TWO weekends each year. In the past, we used a Modified-Single Elimination format for our brackets which guaranteed teams the chance to play twice but NOT lose twice. If your team lost in the first round, you went to the loser side of the bracket. If you lost again, your team was out. If your team won in the first round, you advanced to the next round on the winner's side of the bracket. If you lost in that round, you then went and competed on the loser's side until you lost again and was put out. However, if your team won in the second round of the winner's side but then LOST in the very next round, your team did NOT go to the loser side and was put out of the tourney. Due to the amazing growth of our Birmingham APA League, in this current year's APA World Qualifiers, we had to change our bracket format from Modified-Single Elimination to regular Single Elimination, so we could still complete each tournament in ONE weekend. This meant that, once a team lost their first match, they were out of the tourney. Both bracket formats have their advantages and disadvantages so below are the Pros & Cons of each. This information is provided to better help you answer the next question regarding our future scheduling of our APA World Qualifiers.

SINGLE ELIMINATION

PROS

- Less rounds are needed so each APA WQ can be completed in ONE weekend (Fri-Sat).
- Weekends get freed up quicker for losing teams.
- Teams can NO LONGER try to manipulate their bracket by losing at a specific spot.
- Once you beat a strong team, you don't have to worry about them coming back to play you again.
- Losing teams earn credit to be used for Team Fees.
- Later morning round times so everyone doesn't have to be there by 8 AM.
- Each WQ FINALS can be finished earlier on Sunday. Matches won't go into early AM on Monday.
- Deserving teams should prevail and advance to our APA World Pool Championships in Las Vegas.

CONS

- Teams are out of the tourney after their first loss.
- Not all team members may get the chance to play.

MODIFIED-SINGLE ELIMINATION

PROS

- Teams are guaranteed to play twice, NOT lose twice.
(After the 2nd round on the winner's side, teams who LOSE are out of the tourney anyway.)
- Teams who get beat early still have a chance to make it through the loser's side back to the Semi-Finals.
- Every team member should get the chance to play, if their Team Captain plays them.


CONS

- More rounds are needed so it will take longer than one weekend for each of our WQs.
- More days mean more scheduling conflicts for players.
- BYES do count as a match played by a team.
(Teams with a BYE may only actually play once before losing out.)
- Certain teams can try to lose early to try and manipulate who they play next.
- Due to the costs for the extended event time, NO CREDITS will be given to losing teams for Team Fees.
- Teams who play late in the evening may have to be back by 8 AM for their next rounds.
- Each WQ FINALS will finish late Sunday night (Mon morning) due to the additional rounds.
- Teams who advance to the Semi-Finals may still get beat by a team that comes back from the loser's side.

For each of our APA World Qualifiers (WQs) to be completed in only ONE weekend, we MUST continue using a Single Elimination format for our brackets. The only way to go back to a Modified-Single format is to increase the number of days for each of our APA WQs. Keeping our players' personal lives and schedules in mind, we're not sure if it's really worth adding the extra days.

After reading the above pros and cons for each format, which of the below schedules makes the most sense to you for each of our APA World Qualifiers?

(Please read the schedule description closely when making your choice.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Fri night thru Sun afternoon			168	68.3%
Thu night thru Mon night			15	6.1 %
Fri morning thru Sun night			24	9.8 %
3 Weekends to complete BOTH WQs (Fri night thru Sun night x 3)			39	15.8 %
Totals			246	100%

At our APA World Pool Championships in Las Vegas, there is always an entry fee for all teams who attend and compete. This allows the APA to pay for the tables, lights, tourney staff, and even open the tables for our players. The team entry fees benefits everyone. In our past local APA World Qualifiers, the tables have been set to \$1.00 per game whether it has been quarters, or more recently, \$1.00 tokens. We usually open the tables for our FINALS of each APA WQ. We have been considering opening the tables for the entire time during each of our events. This means that players would no longer need to purchase tokens to practice or while shooting in their APA WQ match. However, due to the cost of the event facility and renting the Diamond Tables for both events, we would have to receive a Team Entry Fee, as they do in Las Vegas. This entry fee would go towards the costs associated with each of our APA WQs. Depending on the amount of teams competing, we may even be able to use some of it for additional draw prizes which could include Vegas Adventure Trips for players who compete in these two events. Our Team Entry Fee for each of our APA World Qualifier would be \$120.00 per team. This would only be an average of \$15 per player for an 8 person roster.

Would you rather pay a one-time Team Entry Fee for the tables to be opened?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
YES, for having a Team Entry Fee. It would be GREAT to have free access to play on these awesome tables!			119	48.4 %
NO, to the Team Entry Fee. I would rather just keep purchasing the tokens and pay for all my games.			127	51.6 %
Totals			246	100%

At each of our APA World Qualifiers, we have our APA PRIZE WHEEL. We draw out player's names to come spin our Prize Wheel and win all kind of prizes. We try to cut up and make it a FUN experience for everyone.

Would you like us to continue doing our APA Prize Wheel or just do drawings for prizes?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I LOVE the Prize Wheel. Please keep doing it so I can SPIN THE WHEEL!			148	60.2 %
Please DON'T do the Prize Wheel. Just have drawings for prizes.			31	12.6 %
I never win anything anyway so it doesn't really matter to me.			67	27.2 %
Totals			246	100%

APA WORLD QUALIFIER VENUE

We always try to find the right venue for our APA World Qualifiers. The facility has to have enough room for all the pool tables and team seating. It also has to have enough bathroom facilities and plenty of parking. It's not easy finding a place that meets the requirements needed for an event of our size. Please answer the following questions regarding our most recent venue, the Pelham Civic Complex.










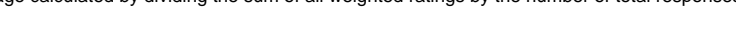
How did you like the Pelham Civic Complex as a venue for our APA World Qualifiers?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Absolutely LOVED it! Best venue ever.			195	79.3 %
It was just okay. Needs some improvement.			37	15.0 %
HATED IT! I don't really want to go back.			3	1.2 %
I have never attended one of our APA WQs in that venue so can't provide my input.			11	4.5 %
Totals			246	100%

The Pelham Civic Complex does its best to accommodate our Birmingham APA League and make our APA World Qualifiers the best that they can possibly be. They want us to continue having our events there. To help the Pelham Civic Complex know what and where they may need to improve, please rate the following subjects.

(If you have never attended or competed in this location, you can skip this question.)

1 = Really Bad!, 2 = Needs Improvement!, 3 = No Problem Here!, 4 = Pretty Darn Good!, 5 = Really Awesome!

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Facility Parking Area (Easy Access and Cleanliness)						236	3.9
Facility Bathrooms (Easy Access and Cleanliness)						235	3.9
Facility Staff (Friendly and Helpful)						236	3.9
Facility Cleanliness						236	4.0
Facility Security (Do you feel SAFE being there?)						236	4.0
Concession (Food Selection)						235	3.4
Concession Pricing						236	3.3
Bar (Drink Selection)						230	3.5
Bar Pricing (Remember this is NOT your local hot spot.)						227	3.3
Smoking Area (Easy Access)						229	3.2

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.