

## FALL SESSION MEETING NOTES

1. **Welcome** – Welcome and thank you for attending our **Fall 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.

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. **I Beat The League Operator Patch** – Every time that I'm out visiting during your League matches, I'm always asked to play for the elusive *I Beat The League Operator* patch. For those of you who keep challenging me, TODAY IS THE DAY! We have a sign-up list for those who want to shoot me for a patch. It doesn't matter when you sign the list because I will draw out 10 players from it in a blind draw. YES, I brought enough patches for everyone to win one! (Keep dreaming...) To keep things moving quickly, we won't play a full handicap race. It will be a straight race to 3. We won't draw out the names until we get our Team Captain Roster Rumble and Spring Regional Qualifier Boards started. All I ask is a couple of practice games since I haven't shot in months.

4. **Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO Birmingham APA T-Shirts)**

5. **Team Captain Roster Rumble** – Following this meeting, we will have our SECOND *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

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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.

- 6. 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 are LAST CHANCE boards to 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.

**7. Important Summer Meeting Highlights**

- a. Online Renewal Contest** – During our last meeting, we reminded everyone about our *Online Renewal Contest* which started this past October. Everyone has a chance to win prizes by just renewing their APA Membership ONLINE from October until December 14. That's right! The deadline is only a few days away so if you haven't renewed your 2019 APA Membership online and entered our contest, you are almost out of time. Since your APA membership MUST be renewed by your first match each January, why not earn a chance to win one of our autographed cues from **Jeanette Lee, The Black Widow** and other cool stuff by doing it early? Kind of a no-brainer, isn't it?

- b. NEW APA Member Starting Skill Levels** – We also discussed that, beginning this month, all brand NEW players, male and female, will start at a SL 3. This rule is now in effect but, if you are adding a new player that you know is much better than a SL 3, please check with me first because they will need to start at a higher SL. There is no sense in pissing off other teams because you are trying to bring in a good player at a low SL.

For those of you competing in your Division Playoffs, you may notice the new scoresheets which actually state the new SL 3 rule change. In fact, these new scoresheets also have a QR Code that you can scan to take players to videos and how to keep score, understanding Defense shots, and a copy of a downloadable APA Official Team Manual. This can really help your new players learn how to keep score and the rules quickly. Pretty cool, huh?

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- 8. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO Bar Tabs)**
- 9. APA APP** – Most of you know that the OLD Member Services Site has now been shut down. May it Rest In Peace. Our APA App and New Member Service Site has taken its place. How many of you have downloaded and are now using our APP to check your schedule and stats? If you haven't started using it, you are missing out. It makes things a lot easier and APA Corporate is still adding some cool features. One of the newest features that was just added and turned on YESTERDAY was an awesome NOTIFICATION function. This new feature will give you alerts when there is something you may need to know. It's kind of like Facebook giving you notifications when your friends post something. There is a little "Bell" icon up beside your initials on the main App screen. The first time you click on it, you need to click on the green button to accept getting notifications. To start with, this will alert you when your next scoresheets are ready to preview, and your stats have been updated. In the future, you will even get alerts to schedule changes, approaching deadlines, upcoming Tourneys, and even other important messages from us. APA Corporate will continue to add more and more cool features, such as a way to search and contact players in our areas, in the future.
- 10. APA Electronic Scorekeeping** – I have heard many players ask about WHEN will we come out with a way to keep scores electronically. The reason why APA Corporate has not come out with this yet because they don't want to do something half ass. Also, some of you may not realize but, this isn't just a simple App that anyone can use. It has to be designed to be used on multiple platforms and devices. Also, this APP is not just a game that is easy for a single user to download and play. It has to be simple enough for even the most technically challenged player, have the ability to communicate with our online software, make the SL and team adjustments needed due to our Equalizer Handicap System and 23-Point Rule, upload and compare data from more than one person and team, and MUCH more. A lot of thought and research has gone into electronic scorekeeping and what is needed to work with all APA Leagues across the world.

I am happy to announce that APA Corporate had finally gotten to the final developing and testing stages for an official APA Scoring APP. However, that doesn't mean that it's going to be ready next week or even next month. The current projection date of having something, that they feel comfortable releasing, is December 2019 or January 2020. The fact that they are NOW giving League Operators this projected date means they are seriously working on this App because they would never give us a date in the past. I'm excited to see what they come up with and how it will change the future of keeping score of your League matches. How many of you want this kind of Scorekeeping App? Well, it will be here before you know it.

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

**12. New APA Award Designs** – Some of you may have noticed that our APA patches are starting to change in appearance. APA Corporate actually came up with some different designs earlier this year and we have already been distributing some of them. Some of those designs got a lot of negative feedback from our League Operator network so APA Corporate went back to the drawing board again for some of them. The newest designs that they have NOW come up with are AWESOME and we feel that everyone will really like them. Most of them are not available yet due to our patch supplier needing to reduce their inventory of the old designs before they will start producing and stocking the newest designs. Since we don't want our players to have to wait on getting the patches they earned, we will continue to purchase and distribute the APA patches that are available to us until the new ones get in stock. We don't want to place big orders of these patches because we don't want all of YOU to get stuck with getting a bunch of the old patches when the new ones become available. Since we will be placing smaller orders to avoid this, please be patient with us if we run out of certain patches and you have to wait until the next order. We want you all to have the newest and the best patches that are available, but it may take time until we can stock the new patches in the quantities that we need to keep from running out.

**13. New Patch Record Sheet** – With patches in mind, Joyce and Annie wanted me to ask for your help with something that has to change in our office. It's very exciting that our *Birmingham APA League* continues to grow. In fact, the previous League Operator once told us that we would never get to 500 teams in this area. We currently have 462 regular teams and well over 500 when we count our Showdown Division teams. Of course, more teams and players mean even more scoresheets to process and more patches to be awarded. We also stock and give out a many more different patches then other APA Leagues areas.

In the past, our office staff has always tried to determine the patches you have earned during your League matches even when they aren't noted on the scoresheets. Some of the patches even get marked incorrectly by some players because their boxes are so close together on your scoresheets. A lot of times, we have to study and review the match then call the players to make sure the right patch was marked. Obviously, this process of searching for unmarked patches and confirming marked ones has been very time consuming but has now gotten even worse with the large increase in the number of teams and scoresheets. Even marked patches can be overlooked when we are trying to process so many scoresheets and decipher some players' handwriting. Some teams don't even bother to mark any patches at all and rely on us to find and give them their patches anyway. Yes, this really happens, for those of you who are trying to do things right.

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We have discussed this issue in length because we really care, and we want all of our players to receive every patch that you earn for your accomplishments. However, we MUST complete our scoresheet processing and inputting in a timely manner. Also, we are only human so we won't catch every patch that isn't noted. Due to our concern that you receive all your awards, we have to make some changes. Starting this coming Spring Session, we will NO LONGER be able to take the time to look for unmarked or even marked patches on your scoresheets. There will now be a **League Patch Sheet** in each of your Team Packets. Here is an example of what one will look like. *(Pass out samples.)*

From now on, when you earn any patches during League play, all you have to do is write down the date, week, your name, and the patch abbreviation on your *League Patch Sheet* and stick it back in your Team Packet. **We need ALL PATCHES earned to be recorded on this sheet.** This will be especially good for those patches that there is no place on the scoresheet to note when you earned it. However, if you forget to record a patch, you may NOT receive your patch. If you remember to record the patch BEFORE TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED, you should still get your patch. We're sorry but, if you remember and try to claim your patch after it's been over two weeks from when you earned the patch, you will NOT get your patch. Please don't try to record it late or call us, because we will NO LONGER be able to stop and research past weeks to get you a patch that was not recorded.

Once we receive your Team Packet with your completed matches, we will pull out your scoresheets and your updated *League Patch Sheet*. We will then get your patches together, highlight the patches that were given out for those League matches, and stick them in your Team Packet for the next week. This League Patch Sheet will help us give the correct patches to the right players and also give each team a running total of the patches that each player earns. You can even make a fun contest out of it, such as where the player who earns the most patches wins something or gets recognition in some way. If you want us to continue to stock all these different patches for our League, we really need your help to make this process easier. Is there anything you want to add, Joyce?

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

**15. New 9-Ball Grey SL Tier** – In case you haven't heard, we are very happy to announce that there will be a NEW SL Tier in this coming year's *APA 9-Ball Spring Regional*. In the past, players who were skill levels 6 thru 9 have all been placed in the same tier. Starting in March and continuing this May in our *2019 APA Poolplayer Championships*, the SL 6s and 7s will now be put into their own Grey Tier and won't have to compete against the SL 8s and 9s. This is something that most

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League Operators and players have been wanting for some time and was just now made possible by the increase in participation world-wide in our APA Singles Program. Just more reason for our SL 6s and 7s to try and get qualified by playing today on one of our LAST CHANCE Spring Qualifier Boards. One of you could be the FIRST SL 6 or 7 to win the Grey Tier in Vegas!

- 16. Annual APA Membership Dues** – Again, please remember that your annual *APA Membership Dues* must be renewed by the time you play your FIRST League match in January. You MUST be a paid APA member for us to input your scores for your team. If you play your first match and you are NOT a paid APA member, we will have to mark you paid and note “PENDING” by your name. If you don't pay it by your next match, we will subtract the amount owed from your submitted team fees thus making your team PAST DUE and your team NOT eligible for your Bonus Points.
- 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 one more drawing to do for two \$50.00 Bills. Afterwards, we will be getting ready for our *Team Captain Roster Rumble* and our Regional Board Qualifiers. 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. 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. 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. Don't forget to pay any tab you started before you leave.  
  
Joyce and I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and that 2019 is a great year for each and every one of you. We look forward to seeing you all in our Spring Session which starts the day after New Year's day. Thank you all for coming today and for being part of our *Birmingham APA League*!
- 19. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) – (TWO \$50.00 Bills)**