



To all of those who are interested in our Masters Program,

The following pages include the results of our recent **2018 Masters Survey**. We sent this survey out to 211 players whose skill levels were a 5 or above. We only received 96 responses out of the 211 emails sent. Some of the questions were answered while others weren't. This is why you see "No Response" listed. Obviously, 96 responses are nowhere near a majority of the players who we sent this survey to. We use surveys, such as this, to get a better feel of what our MOST INTERESTED players feel about certain subjects. These surveys help us have a better sense of what decisions we need to make for our *Birmingham APA League*. The results of this survey, or any survey, will never dictate the final decisions made but they will help influence our decisions. Please feel free to review the results. Some of the results may surprise you where others will not.

As most of you know, our League gets ONE guaranteed slot for every 10 teams in our Showdown Divisions. The survey was sent out with a few different options, which may have helped us grow our Masters Program and be able to earn more Vegas Slots. Recently, we have had several conversations with our APA Corporate office regarding what changes would be best for our Masters Program. Most of the discussions concerned what their exact criteria will be for the distribution of guaranteed Masters Vegas Slots and whether we even wanted to continue having a Masters Division to try and obtain those slots. It has been determined that guaranteed slots will only be given to Leagues with divisions that are ran without any SL handicapping (which we have never done) or any SL requirements. Since Jr Masters restricted SL 7s from their team rosters and will NOT count toward a guaranteed slot, starting in 2019, we will no longer have a separation of these two divisions. All players and teams, who choose to compete in our Masters Program, will now follow the same rules and SL criteria.

At this time, we have chosen to CONTINUE our Masters Division Program through 2019. Our entire purpose of making a change to our Masters format was to grow the program and receive more slots. Since we now know that these suggested new options will NOT get us the extra guaranteed slots, there will be NO CHANGES to our current Masters Program structure besides removing the Jr Masters format. Players will still be able to choose their own rosters and form their own teams for 2019. If something changes and APA Corporate provides us with a different option that will benefit our League, we will let everyone know. HOWEVER, if we struggle to maintain at least 10 teams in our Masters Program, we may just discontinue this program all together.

Also, every session, we continue to hear a lot of griping about certain teams and players who don't want to play their scheduled matches on the assigned dates. They always want to play early or reschedule. **If you are one of those players who can NOT commit to playing on the scheduled dates, which are only once a month and provided well in advance, please DO NOT SIGN UP to play in our Masters Program.** All teams should please remember that you are in your right to take forfeits from those teams and players. We all want to be friends with each other, but NO ONE should get upset if their matches get forfeited because they can't or won't show up on the scheduled date. If this is as frequent an issue as we have heard, then teams should NOT agree to reschedule those matches or play them early. Knowing that their matches WILL BE forfeited, if they don't follow the schedule, may resolve this issue quickly and have everyone showing up on the scheduled match date.

If anyone has any questions regarding our Masters Division or any of our other Showdown Divisions, please feel free to contact Skip at our APA office, 205-621-4199, during our office hours, Mon-Fri 10am-4pm.

Thanks for being part of our *Birmingham Apa Family!*

**League Management**  
**Birmingham APA**

## Constant Contact Survey Results

**Survey Name:** 2018\_Masters Program Survey

**Response Status:** Partial & Completed

**Filter:** None

11/12/2018 12:19 AM CST



Welcome to our Masters Program Survey. Our Masters program is part of our monthly Showdown Divisions. Our League receives ONE Masters Vegas Slot for every 10 teams that participate in our Masters Showdown Divisions. In an effort to grow our Masters program and receive more Vegas Slots, we will be making changes to how our Masters program is ran. These changes will take place in Session A of January 2019. This short survey is to get input from our players regarding our Masters program, so we can make the right changes that will increase participation from our Birmingham APA players. Please take the time to read the details in this survey and provide us with your thoughts and opinions regarding our Masters program. Thank you for helping us make the right decisions for our Birmingham APA League. The deadline to complete this survey is OCTOBER 31, 2018.

### Masters Division Rules

For those of you who are unfamiliar with our Masters Showdown Divisions rules and guidelines, we follow the same popular rules as used in our U.S. Amateur Preliminaries and U.S. Amateur Championship. Our Masters Divisions are made up of 3 to 4 man team rosters with 3 players competing in each team match. There is no skill level handicapping and each individual match is a race to 7 wins. Currently, the only difference in our Masters Division rules from our U.S Amateur rules is that the choice of which format (8-Ball or 9-Ball) to start with in a match has been removed. All team members start their match by playing up to 5 games of 8-Ball and will receive a point for each match they win. They then continue by playing up to 8 games of 9-Ball and will receive a point for each match they win. Masters 9-Ball is a rack race and NOT a point race. Once a player reaches 7 total wins, the match is over. Jump Cues and "Pushes" after the 9-Ball break are also allowed. For full details regarding our Masters Division Rules and Guidelines, please visit our Showdown Division page on our website, [www.BirminghamAPA.com](http://www.BirminghamAPA.com), and click on the "Rules & Guidelines" under our "MASTERS/JR MASTERS" heading. Here is a quick link to that page: [SHOWDOWN DIVISIONS](#)

### MASTERS SCHEDULE

The following questions are about our Masters schedule. Please provide us your answers for the schedule that would make you most likely to participate or continue to participate in our Masters Division.

\* We want to know if you are currently playing in Masters or have ever tried a Masters program in the past. Please click on the below answer that BEST describes your participation in a Masters program:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I am currently playing in Masters and LOVE the format.			30	31.2 %
I have played BEFORE in Masters and I'm INTERESTED in joining again.			13	13.5 %
I have played BEFORE in Masters but NOT INTERESTED anymore.			2	2.0 %
I have NEVER played Masters but I really WANT to.			23	23.9 %
I have NEVER played Masters and have NO interest to.			11	11.4 %
No Response(s)			17	17.7 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>96</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* We have League play every night of the week, so table availability is limited. Our Masters Divisions are currently held on ONE Saturday out of each month. Team Matches currently start at 11:00 am and they rotate between Bumpers Billiards and Poppa G's Billiards each month. Teams play two Team Matches each time they meet. To compete in our Masters Division, which time on Saturday would work better for you? (Please check as many times as desired.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
10:00 am			34	44.7 %
11:00 am			33	43.4 %
12:00 pm			10	13.1 %
1:00 pm			8	10.5 %
2:00 pm			7	9.2 %
3:00 pm			8	10.5 %
4:00 pm			5	6.5 %
5:00 pm			5	6.5 %
6:00 pm			5	6.5 %
Other			3	3.9 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Our Masters format has become popular and we have had some players express that they may want to play more. How often would you like to compete in our Masters format?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
One Saturday in each month.			53	55.2 %
Two Saturdays in each month.			14	14.5 %
Every Saturday in each month.			3	3.1 %
Other			6	6.2 %
No Response(s)			20	20.8 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>96</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### MASTERS FORMAT

We currently divide our Masters Divisions into two groups, Masters and Jr Masters. However, due to the lack of growth in these divisions and the fact that there is no Jr Masters tourney in Vegas, starting in January 2019, these groups will no longer be separated. We are also considering some other changes to how teams are formed. Our primary goal, in changing our Masters Program, is to increase participation from our players which will hopefully help our League earn more Vegas Slots. We feel that, if we create a fairer way for our eligible players to be able to compete in our Masters format, more players will be more interested in participating. We want ALL our Masters teams and players, who participate and pay their share of monies into our Travel Assistance Fund for Vegas Masters Teams, to have a chance to win the opportunity to compete in our APA Masters Championship held in Las Vegas each August. With our primary goal in mind, we currently have THREE options in which we can restructure our Masters Program. These options will be described in the following section and listed in what we feel is the fairest (1) to the least fair (3). Please review these options and their Pros and Cons before choosing the option YOU would most be interested in.

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## OPTION 1: MASTERS DRAFT

A Facebook post and sign-up list will be created in which players, with a SL 5 or above, can sign up for our Masters Draft. Our initial goal will be 80 players which will make 20 four-man teams. All players will be ranked according to their level of play. The top 20 ranked players on the list will be assigned as Team Captains. On Draft Day, the 20 Team Captains will take turns choosing from our Draft List. The three Draft Rounds will be designed where it will be fair to all teams. These teams will then compete each session and the top finishing teams from each Showdown year will compete in their Vegas Playoffs. With TWO Vegas Slots, the Playoff Champion team will win one slot. We will hold an additional tourney (Fantastic Four Masters Tourney) which will be held in a singles format and NOT a team format. The top FOUR finishers in this tourney will earn the second Vegas Slot. Any additional earned Vegas slots will be awarded to the top finishers in the Vegas Playoffs.

### PROS

- Due to the fairness of roster selection, more players will be interested and more comfortable in competing in our Masters Program.
- With a more even playing field, any Masters team will have a chance to qualify and win a Vegas Slot.
- More teams will mean our League has a better chance to receive MORE Vegas Slots.
- More players and teams participating also means MORE Travel Assistance collected.
- Everyone paying their Team Fees will have an equal and fair chance of earning their share of the Travel Assistance.
- Time-outs can be allowed to help the TOP players in our League to coach their other players to victory.
- Lower skilled players will receive the opportunity to learn from the "BEST" in our League by playing WITH them and NOT just being BEAT by them.
- All team members should get equal playing time due to the teams no longer being stacked.
- The additional Fantastic Four Masters Tourney will allow our "Super" players an opportunity to still earn their place to form a Vegas team together.
- The Fantastic Four Masters Tourney will also allow our League to send a Vegas team made up of the "BEST" in our area.

### CONS

- Teams will not always get their first pick of team members that they want.
- Some overly sensitive players may get their feelings hurt if they are not picked early in the Draft.
- Our few "Super" players will still have to earn a spot together on a team by competing in our Fantastic Four Masters Tourney. (If they're the "BEST", it shouldn't be a problem, right?)

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## OPTION 2: POWER SPLIT

This option merges all the teams into each division but limits the number of "Super" players that can be on a team roster. Only TWO SL 7s (8s & 9s in 9-Ball) may be on one team roster. The remaining spots MUST be filled by SL 5s and 6s. The top finishing teams from each Showdown year will compete in their Vegas Playoffs. Vegas Playoff Champion team(s) win the Vegas Slot(s). Champion Teams will be allowed to shuffle their rosters to form a different Vegas team as long as all original players still get to go to Vegas with their share of the travel assistance.

### PROS

- More teams will be formed due to the splitting of teams who have all 7s on their current roster.
- More teams will mean our League has a better chance to receive more Vegas Slots.
- Teams still have a choice for their roster as long as they meet the SL requirements.
- The playing field will be more even though teams can still be "stacked" with at least two "Super" players.
- Players may feel more comfortable spending their money and competing in Masters with fairer rosters.
- For Vegas, "Super" players on Champion Teams can still form a team from other "Super" players on another Champion Team.

### CONS

- Some players will no longer be able to play on the same team in Masters League play.
- Some of the lower skilled players may NOT be chosen to play as much as the two higher skilled players.
- Our League may not be represented in Vegas by a team of the "BEST" players in our area.

**OPTION 3: SUPER TEAMS**

This option is basically merging all the teams in our Masters Program into a schedule together. There will be no separation of skill levels such as there is currently in our Jr Masters and Masters divisions. Teams will choose their own rosters and "Super" teams can be formed. The top finishing teams from each Showdown year will compete in their Vegas Playoffs. Vegas Playoff Champion team(s) win the Vegas Slot(s).

**PROS**

- Teams can choose anyone who plays in our Birmingham APA League to form a team.
- Super strong teams formed from the "BEST" players in our League will probably win each year and represent us in Vegas.

**CONS**

- There will NOT be an even playing field in each League match due to the "Super" teams that form.
- The same one or two teams will continue to qualify each session.
- The majority of participating teams will contribute their travel assistance monies for the same teams each year.
- The majority of players will not join Masters, or quit, due to these "Super" teams dominating their division.
- The same one or two teams will continue to dominate each year and win the Vegas Slot(s).

**IMPORTANT!!** We will be making a change to our Masters program and would appreciate your personal honest opinion. To make an informed decision and before answering the below question, please make sure you read the above information regarding the three options along with each option's Pros and Cons. Which of the three options do you feel would be the best format for our Masters program?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
MASTERS DRAFT			27	28.1 %
POWER SPLIT			20	20.8 %
SUPER TEAMS			17	17.7 %
No Response(s)			32	33.3 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>96</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*** We want your input on what is most important to you in a Masters Program. Please rank the following aspects of our Masters program according to their importance to you:

1 = Don't Even Care!, 2 = On The Fence., 3 = Most Important To Me!

Answer	1	2	3	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
The day that Masters matches held on.				65	2.3
The time that Masters matches start.				65	2.2
Playing Masters matches at Bumpers Billiards.				65	1.7
Playing Masters matches at Poppa G's Billiards.				65	1.9
Keeping SL 4s and below OUT of Masters.				65	2.1
Fairness of Master team rosters.				65	2.0
Allowing COACHING in Masters.				65	1.8
Playing in APA Masters Championship in Vegas.				65	2.5
Learning from better players in Masters.				65	2.7
Kicking David Rowell's BUTT on the pool table. LOL				65	2.1

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