

Western PA APA Players' meeting

Host: Western PA APA (Fran and George)

Location: King Seat Billiards

Date/Time: March 23, 2025 @ 11:00

Agenda:

1. Division representative introductions
2. Bylaw changes
3. Q&A

The meeting commenced shortly after 11:00, with approximately 25 captains and players in attendance. Fran and George provided pizza for those in attendance. Several questions/comments were recorded throughout the discussion and are compiled in either the Q&A section or under "General information."

1. Division representatives
 - a. Introduced the division representatives:
 - i. Irwin 9 ball 449: Dan Kopa
 - ii. Irwin 9 ball 549: Dave Benson
 - iii. Irwin 8 ball: Mike Durkota
 - iv. Mt. Pleasant: Dave Weinman
 - b. Discussed the primary roles and responsibilities: rule verifications, recruiting, host location issues, singles boards, etc.
 - c. Discussed the need for additional division representatives for anyone that is willing/interested (Greensburg, Latrobe, Somerset, Uniontown and another for Mt. Pleasant).
2. Bylaw changes
 - a. The bylaw changes will not take effect until the Summer session.
 - b. The bylaws will be posted as soon as they are approved by APA national.
 - c. The bylaw changes are mostly to align with APA national League rules.
Note: ZSAPA had exemptions from several rules and had not implemented recent changes made by APA national. Those exemptions are no longer accepted by the APA.
 - d. Summary of bylaw changes:
 - i. Playoff structure. In addition to the top teams in the division advancing to the triannual tournament on points (the number based on the total number of teams in the division), four teams will compete for the two remaining spots in a one-night playoff.
 - ii. No pay for points. The top teams in the division will not automatically receive payment. All qualifying teams must compete at the triannual tournament or LTC to earn payouts. However, teams finishing with the most points in a session will have a greater chance of earning first-round byes.
 - iii. Progressive payouts. Payouts will increase the further your team advances in the tournament.

- iv. Tournament greens fees: All teams will be required to pay \$40 for the entire weekend (\$5 per person for a typical team). This does not go to the Western PA APA or Camwick. It goes to the host venue.
- v. Trophies/plaques: Playoff winners will receive a team award and individual awards for each player. Trophies and plaques will also be awarded to tournament winners.
- vi. Modified single elimination. Every team will have at least two guaranteed matches, but not two losses. For example, a first-round loss will advance to the loser's bracket. But a first-round win followed by a loss in the second round will exit the tournament.
- vii. MVP: MVP winners will receive plaques regardless of participation in the MVP tournament. Additionally, MVP tournaments will double as qualifying tournaments for regional singles' tournaments.

3. Q&A

- a. Push shots/double-hits. These are controversial. It is best to consult the rulebook or request an independent referee for specific circumstances. While striking at a 45-degree angle will reduce the risk of a double-hit, it will not eliminate the potential for a double-hit foul. Contact Fran or George for disputes during league play.
- b. Replay (playing a player twice). Permitted once a night. No limit to the session. However, replays are not permitted on the last night of a session or in the playoffs. Teams are reminded that all players must remain for the entire match unless specifically agreed to by the opposing team captain.
- c. Timeouts. Coaches must be on the team roster. Abuse of the 1-minute time limit should be reported in the notes prior to submitting scores.
- d. Pace of play/shot clock. Excessively slow play should be reported in the notes prior to submitting scores.
- e. Communications. Fran and George are relying on Facebook, the Western PA APA League website, and the APA Member Services app to provide information. Team captains should ensure their players are informed. If you would prefer another method of communication, please contact Fran or George.
- f. Sandbagging. If you hear teams discussing intentional losses to manipulate skill levels, report this to Fran or George either directly or in the notes. You should also mark defensive shots where you deem appropriate.

4. General information

- a. The official APA league year commences with the Summer session.
- b. Captains/scorekeepers should ensure that table size is marked on scoresheets.
- c. Divisions with 14 or more teams will likely be split into divisions. There was discussion of possibly shifting teams between the divisions (Irwin 9 ball) to ensure a rotation of venues.
- d. Patches. Fran and George can easily identify routine patches (on the snap, break & run), but please put a note on the scoresheet for rare patches (20-0, rackless).

- e. There will be no play on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This was a one-time need to ensure adequate qualifying matches for the Fall session teams.
- f. Western PA APA intends to balance all three sessions to 16 weeks each. This will likely happen during the Fall session. Please be patient during the transition.
- g. Team captains should ensure that teams are consistently and accurately marking defensive shots. This data is relied upon for all skill-level disputes. Failure to accurately mark defensive shots can lead to disqualification of players/teams, especially when competing at APA national tournaments. Large disparities in defensive shots will be investigated by Fran/George.
- h. The online APA rule book is searchable and easy to use. Everyone should bookmark the link: <https://rules.poolplayers.com/>
- i. Singles boards.
 - i. \$200 per board.
 - ii. Winners advance to regional tournaments (Columbus or Philadelphia).
 - iii. A minimum of four players is needed. See Fran or George for the necessary forms.
 - iv. Splash boards require 16 players. Five players will advance to the regional tournament. This would be the goal for the MVP tournament if enough players participate.