



Dear Players,

Playoffs are here!!

We told you at the Summer Players Meeting that we would be introducing playoffs starting in the spring session, however, after much thought and discussion with many of you, we have decided to implement this change effective immediately – because we believe so strongly that this change is going to be good for the league. Let us explain.

A playoff structure means all qualification will be earned through Tri-Annuals instead of through division standings. Instead of playing down to a few winners at Tri-Annuals, we will play down to 13-15 winners and every winner will gain qualification to the World Qualifier and will receive a cash payout. Teams will qualify for Tri-Annuals either by winning a playoff match or because of their points position at the end of the regular session matches. The table below shows which teams qualify for Tri-Annuals and playoffs based on the division size. Playoff matches take place during the division's normal night of play, the week following the last night of regular session play.

DIVISION SIZE	ADVANCING TO TRI-ANNUAL	PLAYOFF MATCH 1 (WINNER ADVANCES TO TRI-ANNUAL)	PLAYOFF MATCH 2 (WINNER ADVANCES TO TRI-ANNUAL)	PLAYOFF MATCH 3 (WINNER ADVANCES TO TRI-ANNUAL)
4-5 TEAMS	NA	1 st vs. Wild Card		
6-7 TEAMS	1 st place	2 nd vs. Wild Card		
8-11 TEAMS	1 st place	2 nd vs. Wild Card	3 rd vs. 4 th	
12-15 TEAMS	1 st place	2 nd vs. Wild Card	3 rd vs. 6 th	4 th vs. 5 th
16 TEAMS	1 st & 2 nd place	3 rd vs. Wild Card	4 th vs. 7 th	5 th vs. 6 th

Now that we've explained how playoffs work, let's talk about why they're going to be a ***really good*** change. Before playoffs, it was **HARD** to get qualified – you pretty much had to dominate your division to qualify or hope you won Tri-Annual, where you had roughly a 1 in 16 chance of qualification. These odds don't motivate teams to play hard: By mid-session, teams in the bottom half of the division, or sometimes even in the middle of the pack, are "out of it" and just hoping for the wild card (where again, odds aren't great). A playoff structure changes this and gives all teams a real chance at qualification. Mid-way through the session, instead of being out of it, teams are fighting for a playoff spot. The energy on league night will be exciting because everyone still has a chance, no one is out of it and even your wild card chances improve.

Tri-Annual Tournaments will also be better with this change. In this past weekend's 9-ball Tri-Annual, 8 out of 27 teams chose not to participate; in 8-ball 4 out of 26 teams did not attend. They chose not to participate because they were either already qualified or because they couldn't get enough players to commit two full days to a tournament where the odds were less than favorable. Tri-Annuals should be exciting, not exhausting, and this change will allow us to reduce a Tri-Annual Tournament from a 6-round marathon to a one-day, two-round event. One day for 8-ball, one day for 9-ball – and every match

will be a nail-biter as teams battle for qualification. It's a game changer in terms of the mood in the room. On top of that, Tri-Annuals is an opportunity for cash payouts and with this new format the cash payouts will be dispersed to more teams.

We know this is a big change and that it's happening quickly. We didn't want to wait to introduce this next session because we saw how the current system played out at the end of last session at Tri-Annuals and we recognized that this change needed to come sooner. We also spoke to many captains at Tri-Annual and received overwhelming support in favor of implementing this now.

We are confident this is going to enhance your league experience. We've attached the portion of the bylaws that changed explaining playoffs and Tri-Annuals. If you have any questions, please call or text us anytime (904-585-8180) and we will be happy to talk to you more about it.

Shoot well,

Mike & Kelly Moore
League Operators
Jacksonville APA

Excerpt from Jacksonville APA Bylaws Regarding Post-Session

Eligibility – Effective Fall 2021 Session

Read the full bylaws at Jacksonville.apaleagues.com/rulesbylaws

Wild Card

There will be one wild card team drawn in each division each session. Any team that did not qualify for advancement based on their points position for their division size, is current in all League fees, and did not forfeit a full team match during the last two weeks of regular session play, is eligible to participate in the wild card drawing. The team winning the wild card drawing will participate in the division playoffs.

Division Playoffs

Division playoffs take place during the division's normal night of play, the week following the last night of regular session play. Teams qualify for division playoffs based on their division standing at the completion of the last night of regular League play in a session or by drawing the wild card for their division. Teams must be registered to compete the following session to participate in playoffs. Qualification will be passed to the next eligible team if a team that is not registered to play the following session finishes in a points position that would gain entry to playoffs. The playoff matches will be as follows, based on the division size. Byes do not count as teams in determining a division's size.

DIVISION SIZE	ADVANCING TO TRI- ANNUAL	PLAYOFF MATCH 1 (WINNER ADVANCES TO TRI-ANNUAL)	PLAYOFF MATCH 2 (WINNER ADVANCES TO TRI-ANNUAL)	PLAYOFF MATCH 3 (WINNER ADVANCES TO TRI-ANNUAL)
4-5 TEAMS	NA	1 st vs. Wild Card		
6-7 TEAMS	1 st place	2 nd vs. Wild Card		
8-11 TEAMS	1 st place	2 nd vs. Wild Card	3 rd vs. 4 th	
12-15 TEAMS	1 st place	2 nd vs. Wild Card	3 rd vs. 6 th	4 th vs. 5 th
16 TEAMS	1 st & 2 nd place	3 rd vs. Wild Card	4 th vs. 7 th	5 th vs. 6 th

Post-Session Tournaments

We want as many Jacksonville APA Pool League members to win as possible. In an effort to ensure opportunities for all teams and skill levels, the following tournaments will be available to current Jacksonville APA members on an active team.

Tri-Annals: The Tri-Annual Tournament is a team event that takes place at the end of each League session (Summer, Fall and Spring). Teams qualify for this tournament through division playoffs or by their points position at the end of the last night of regular League play, as outlined in the playoff structure above. Teams must be current in all fees due and be registered for the next session with at least four original players to be eligible for this tournament.

Teams compete for qualification to the World Qualifier as well as cash payouts at this event. The number of teams gaining eligibility for the World Qualifier and the amount of cash payouts will be determined at the end of each session by the total number of teams participating in the event and the funds collected during the session. Teams must participate in the event to receive qualification or any cash awards. Players must have a minimum of four matches played with their team within the regular session to be eligible to play in this event (8-ball or 9-ball).

World Qualifier: The World Qualifier is an annual tournament that takes place at the end of the League year (after the Spring session). The winning teams at the World Qualifier receive travel assistance to Las Vegas and the opportunity to represent Jacksonville APA Pool League in the APA World Pool Championships. The number of teams advancing to the APA World Pool Championship is determined by the total number of teams in a given format (8-ball or 9-ball) in the Jacksonville APA Pool League area. Teams gain eligibility for the World Qualifier event by winning a Tri-Annual Tournament.

Teams can gain eligibility for the World Qualifier in any League session but must remain active in all subsequent sessions of the League year to maintain their qualification status. Additional requirements for maintaining qualification are outlined in the Official Team Manual. It is the responsibility of the Captain to ensure teams follow these guidelines or qualification can be lost.

To participate in the World Qualifier, players must have four matches within the regular session with their team to be eligible to play and a minimum of 10 lifetime match scores prior to the end of the Spring Session leading into the World Qualifiers. Matches played during division playoffs and the Tri-Annual Tournament count toward the lifetime match requirement.