

This is a singles event. There are no timeouts and coaching is not allowed.

8-Ball-In order to participate, you must be an active APA member, on an active 8-ball team, with an 8-ball skill level based on at least 10 league scores. The 10 league scores must have been earned in the last two years. You must play on an open 8 ball team to earn scores and keep your eligibility, once qualified. *Playing only on a Master's team does not count.*

9-Ball-In order to participate, you must be an active APA member, on an active 9-ball team, with a 9-ball skill level based on at least 10 league scores. The 10 scores must have been earned in the last two years. You must play on an open 9 ball team to earn scores and keep your eligibility, once qualified. *Playing only on a Master's team does not count.*

Local level-In order to qualify for the national tournament, you must first qualify by entering into a qualifier board. There are several ways to run qualifiers. The following are the ones that we have had the most success with.

Play Till You Win-Odds of Qualifying one in four per board. Approximately 80% of the players get qualified, Cost \$40 or 62 incentive points, plus a \$3 greens fee (Good for all day)

4 person boards, grouped by skill level whenever possible. Single elimination, win two matches on a board and get qualified. 1 person per board advances to regionals. Play on as many boards as it takes to get qualified for one entry fee. Because of the cost of running these types of qualifiers, only one will be held for each format per qualifying season.

Splash Boards-Odds of winning are 1 in 3.5. Double Elimination. Maximum 16 players. Cost is \$40 person or 62 incentive points, plus table fees.

16 person board, grouped by skill level whenever possible. 5 players out of 16 qualify for regionals. This type of board pays for itself, so multiple Splash boards can be run in a qualifying period.

Regional Level-Once you have qualified at the local level, you are now eligible to compete at the regional level. Both 8-Ball and 9-Ball have two regional tournaments, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. In order to participate in the Fall regional, you must win a qualifier board between December 1 and June 15. In order to participate in the Spring regional, you must win a qualifier board between June 16 and November 30. As long as you are on both an 8-ball and 9-ball team, you may qualify and play in both 8-ball and 9-ball formats. Once qualified you must remain active in the format that you qualified in. The Fall regionals are generally the first weekend in October in Salem, the Spring regionals are generally the last weekend in February in Oregon City. Both the regionals and national tournaments are Modified-Single elimination. You are guaranteed to play at least twice, not necessarily lose twice. Just like we run our tri-cups.

At the regional and national level you will only play against players of similar skill levels. 8-ball is broken into 5 tiers: Skill level 7, Skill level 6, Skill level 5, Skill level 4 and Skill levels 2-3. In 9-ball there are 3 tiers: Skill levels 6-9, Skill levels 4-5 and Skill levels 1-3. At least one player from each tier will advance to the national tournament. The brackets at the regional and national levels are seeded so that you will be playing other players of like ability. If you are a low skill level 4, you will be seeded against other skill level 4's that are low in their skill level to start the tournament.

The regional winners receive a trophy/plaque and a trip to Las Vegas to compete in the national tournament around the end of April, first of May 2015. Runners-up in each tier receive a plaque.

National level-Players advancing to the national level receive a travel allowance for airfare, their own room at the Riviera and a commemorative jacket upon registration in Las Vegas. 8-ball and 9-ball tournaments are broken into the same skill level brackets as regionals, with a national winner in each tier. 8-ball tier winners receive \$15,000 in cash and prizes with at least half being paid in cash. 9-ball tier winners receive \$10,000 in cash and prizes with at least half being paid in cash. If you are eligible to qualify in both 8 & 9-ball you may compete in both events at the national level. You may not participate in the National Open 8 Ball Doubles, Open 9 ball Doubles or the Wheelchair challenge if you are participating in the National Singles Championships.

Think you are not good enough to compete? Think again!