



Boomer's Page



February 10, 2016

OPAL: Putting The Fun Back Into Playing League

NON-RATED PLAYERS MUST PLAY

All non-rated players, those without a skill level, must play at least once by week 7 or they will be removed from your roster, even if you have a "bye" that week. Double jeopardy teams, the non-rated players must play at least one 8-ball match and one 9-ball match if they are on both rosters. Players that are playing their first session ever must have a skill level based on at least 10 scores this session in order to advance to the regional and/or national level. The only scores that count are Spring session play, Spring session playoffs and Spring session tri-cups. Summer session scores will not count towards the 10. Every year, we have members going into tri-cups needing 5 or 6 scores. This drastically hinders strategy and if your team does well chances are your player will not get the required number of scores in. Don't dilly dally, get the 10 scores in during regular league play. We purposely make the Spring session the longest session to allow you to get your new players qualified.

\$\$\$ NEXT TO A PLAYER'S NAME

\$\$\$ next to a player's name means that player owes us money. It could be from a returned check or money owed from a previous session. That money needs to be paid or that person will not be allowed to play in playoffs or tri-cups and may not be allowed to return next session. Encourage your players to call the office to make arrangements to get this taken care of, if they have not already done so.

Easter Is March 27

If your team cannot play that day, you must make arrangements now to pre-play that match.

Make Up Matches Need to Be Completed by March 27

A Sad Farewell



We are sad to report that Mary "Mair-Mair" Ward passed away suddenly the morning of February 6th. Mary joined the league Fall session of 2000 and has been a constant fixture in the North Portland area. Her most current team was the Mousetrap's "Huh, Who?" out of the North Port 9 Ball division. Mary served as captain and played together with her husband, Bob on several teams over the years. She will be missed by all. Our deepest condolences to Bob, her teammates, family and friends. I have no further details at this time.

Double Jeopardy Strategy

Double jeopardy teams need to strategize so that the same player is not needed on two tables at once. The other team does not have to wait for a player to finish one format so they can play in the other. Use some common sense. If you are going to be short players or having trouble with skill levels and there are extra tables available, get one of the races over with early in the match on a third table so you don't get yourself in a bind.

Pool Etiquette

Official team manual page 7 “To help make your evening of League play enjoyable, as well as enhance the enjoyment of those around you, please observe basic guidelines of etiquette” **Translation: Just because you are in a bar, doesn’t mean that foul or abusive language is necessary, to be expected or tolerated. Threats of physical violence will be treated the same as actual physical violence. Depending on the situation, this can mean permanent suspension from the league.** “Treat your opponent as you would like to be treated.” **Translation: If you’re the kind that likes having someone in your face, yelling and calling you every name in the book, you are playing the wrong sport. No one else wants to be treated that way.** “Pay attention to your match, be ready to shoot when it is your turn so you don’t slow down the match. If you are expected to play the next match, have your cue ready and begin your match as soon as the previous match is over” **Translation: Have your cue ready. Be ready to lag as soon as the previous match is finished. When you are in a match, it is not the time to sneak outside to have a quick smoke. Score keepers need to pay attention to the match table. Not texting or playing games on their electronic devices.** “Limit coaching to one minute” **Translation: Timeouts are limited to one minute, only!** “Cheering for your teammate is part of the fun, but don’t cheer against your opponent” **Translation: Hearing a team or player cheering “scratch, scratch, scratch”, while the cue ball is rolling towards a pocket will not be tolerated.**

Final word: You are representing your team, your host location and the APA. You are expected to act like ladies and gentlemen during your league matches.

Leave Your Baggage at the Door!

So you’ve had a bad day. We all have them from time to time. Your car broke down on the way to work, the boss chewed your butt over something you didn’t do, the fast food place screwed up your lunch order. You come home to find that your spouse has taken everything, moved out and cleaned out your bank account. You check your phone messages, 4 out of the 5 are from bill collectors. The other was from your Mother, putting a guilt trip on you for not calling more often. On top of everything else, you have a splitting headache, there is no place to sit, the bar is out of your favorite beverage, the music is blaring and you are playing the worse pool you ever have. Guess what? No one cares! They came to play pool and have a good time. No one needs to listen to your whining, crying, banging or throwing your stick around, slamming the balls on the table and certainly no one needs to have you take out your bad day on them. They didn’t cause your problems and shouldn’t have to pay the price. Check your baggage at the door. Go out, play as best you can and show everyone around you the kind of respect that you would like to receive. You can pick up your baggage on your way out the door. It will still be there.

NEW PLAYERS AND THEIR SKILL LEVELS

As with every session, we have many new members in the league this session. Anyone with a membership number of 21200 or higher is new to the league. Please be aware that these new players will bounce around the whole skill level range until they get 6 or 7 scores in. We don’t mind comments about these new players such as “has good cue ball control” or “good ball selection” but calling these players sandbaggers at this stage in the session does not even make sense. I dare to say that 90% of you did not start at the proper skill level or get there within the first few weeks. Give these new players a chance to get their scores in before assuming that they are purposely keeping their skill levels below what they should be. It is very rare that a player goes straight to their true skill level after only a couple of plays.