OPAL: Putting The Fun Back Into Playing League

February 3, 2016



Boomers Page



Matches You May Need To Pre-Play

Now that permanent schedules and captain's lists are out, you need to start planning ahead. If you will not be able to field a team on **St Patrick's Day, March 17, Easter, March 27** or the week of **Chinook Winds, April 13-17**, you need to make arrangements **now** with your opponent to **pre-play** your match. You will not be allowed to make it up after the fact. You may also need to reschedule your match for the week of **March 13-20** if you have players participating in the **BCA Chinook Winds tournament. Do not wait until the last minute.** Talk with your team, contact the opposing team, set a date, then notify the league office 503-243-6725 so we can get the score sheets to you. If you are having trouble agreeing on a date or are having trouble reaching the other team, contact us asap and we will help you out. Failure to complete a match could result in your team having to pay both teams fees and getting knocked out of a chance for playoffs or tri-cups.

A Sad Goodbye



It is with a heavy heart that we report that Ron Mehner lost his battle with cancer on Saturday, January 30. Ron joined the league Spring session 1994. He played many years while we were developing OPAL, then took a long hiatus, returning full force Fall session of 2009. He played on and captained many teams in the Oregon City and Canby area. He found a home in Wranglers when Jeff and Katie Haight bought the location and was instrumental in putting them on the

OPAL map by building teams and bringing in new players, helping them become one of our premiere host locations and earning them the honor of being awarded Host Location Of The Year during the 2013-2014 league year. He embraced the OPAL/APA spirit whole heartedly being a mentor, motivator and friend to so many. His easy going style and quick wit earned him a spot in everyone's heart and he will be missed by all. Wranglers is dedicating their pool room in his memory. They will also be hosting a Celebration Of Life Tournament on Saturday, February 13 starting at 10 am.

23 RULE

Breaking the 23 rule is absolutely forbidden. The skill levels of the players that play must add up to 23 or less. The 23 rule must be met even if all 5 races are not played. You cannot play 4 races to 23 and forfeit the 5th race. You must be able to prove had all 5 races been played, that you could have stayed at 23 or less with the line up that you play. For the Super divisions the cap is 26, Ladies the cap is 13. Breaking the 23 (26 rule for Super divisions, 13 for Ladies) may result in your team losing all points won for the match.

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, returning players who have been out of the league more than 2 years or players that are playing in a format they have never played before 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 players qualified.

Just a Few More Open Scotch Qualifiers Left

All are at the Wichita Town Pub in Milwaukie. For more information and eligibility requirements, watch for my Facebook Posts. Open 8 Ball and Open 9 Ball Scotch regionals will be March 12. We will be sending 2 teams in each Open event to the National Tournament. Nationals are Apr 26-30 in Las Vegas. Jack N Jill 8 Ball Scotch Qualifiers will resume after March 12. Please pre-register with the league office by 5 pm, the Friday before the qualifier you wish to participate in. 503-243-6725

February 6th- Open 8 Ball 10 am, Open 9 Ball and Jack N Jill 8 Ball 1 pm

February 13th-Open 8 Ball 10 am, Open 9 Ball and Jack N Jill 8 Ball 1 pm

February 20th-Open 8 Ball 10 am, Open 9 Ball and Jack N Jill 1 pm

March 5th- Last Freak'n Chance for the Open Open 8 Ball 10 am, Open 9 Ball and Jack N Jill 1 pm

ATTENTION: QUALIFIED TEAMS

The roster you have right now will be the one that you will take to regionals with you in June. You may make no changes to your roster for the remainder of the session. This is a national rule. Please read the Higher Level Tournament section of your official team manual starting with page 85. It is imperative that all of the requirements be met in order to participate at the regional and national level. Failure to meet these requirements may put your team at a disadvantage going into the regional tournament and may disqualify your team members from the national tournament. If you have any questions, let's get them cleared up now. 9-Ball regionals will be held June 10-12. 8-Ball regionals will be held June 17-19. Dates for Nationals: 9-Ball Team-August 11-15 and 8-Ball Team-August 15-20. Schedule your vacation time now! Any qualified team that finishes in the lower half of the standings this session will be under extra scrutiny when it comes time to set up the regional tournament. Any team that is not marking defensive shots, qualified or not, will have players arbitrarily raised in skill level.

ABOUT THE SINGLES PROGRAM

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 2017. 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 Westgate and a special selected prize 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.

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

Play Till You Win Singles Qualifiers

ONE ENTRY FEE—PLAY TILL YOU WIN!

In order to participate must be on an active 9-ball team and have an 9-ball skill level based on a minimum of 10 scores. (10 scores must have been earned in the last 2 years) Once qualified for regionals, you must remain on an active 9-Ball team.

Saturday, February 20 starting at 9 am

All skill levels—9-Ball Only (boards will be grouped by skill levels whenever possible)

Midway Public House, 1003 7th St, Oregon City 503-656-9501

\$40 entry fee plus \$3 greens fee

In order to participate, you must be on an active 8-ball team and have a 8-ball skill level based on a minimum of 10 scores. (10 scores must have been earned in the last 2 years) Once qualified for regionals, <u>you must remain on an active 8-Ball team.</u>

Saturday, March 19 starting at 9 am

All skill levels—8-Ball Only (boards will be grouped by skill levels whenever possible)

Rodder's, 19195 S Molalla, Oregon City 503-650-2363

\$40 entry fee plus \$3 per person greens fee

Stay all day or arrive when you can!

For one \$40 entry fee or 62 incentive points, you can play on as many

4 person-single elimination boards as we have time to run, until you win.

Win two races on a board and you qualify for the 2016 Fall Regionals which will be held in Salem, October 1-2

Please pre-register with the league office by no later than 5 pm on the Friday before the qualifier you wish to participate in. 503-243-6725 or apaboomer@aol.com

We will draw the last boards of the day at 7 pm