



# Boomer's Page



MAY 19, 2016

OPAL: PUTTING THE FUN BACK INTO PLAYING LEAGUE

## Singles Nationals and 9 Ball Tri-cup Scores Are In

The scores from Singles Nationals and the 9 Ball Tri-cups have been averaged into the permanent player records of the participants. You may see a player's skill level has changed even though they did not play with your team last week.

## 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.

## "Sandbagger"

Sandbagger: The term is overused and inappropriate in the majority of cases. Absolutely no one is qualified to use that term during a league match unless you are an official member of the handicap review committee, which 99.9% of you are not. There is absolutely no way to determine a person's skill level after watching one league match. You, as player, simply do not have enough information to determine what a player's skill level should be. Any one can have a good game or good match. It can take as many as 10 scores for a new player to get to their proper skill level. Calling a player a sandbagger during a match is sharking and will be considered a sportsmanship violation from here on out. The way to keep sandbagging out of the league is to keep score properly. Mark those intentional misses as defensive shots. Make your comments on your score sheet. Do not verbalize your frustration or concerns during a league match. All that does is cause controversy and hard feelings. League is supposed to be fun!

## New Rule Books Are In

The new rule books have arrived. We will be mailing those out to the team captains in the next week or so. Take some time to read through it. While there are no real major changes from the last one, we ask that every 2 years when the new rule books come out that you read it again. Some of the verbiage has changed to further clarify some rules and every time you read it, you will find something that you had not seen before. The biggest change in the new rule book is that the Double format has finally been formalized by headquarters, which means that we will start Doubles divisions this Fall session. Read through that section at least. We will be putting out more information on this new format in the next few weeks and would like to get you all to start thinking about adding that format to your pool playing experience.

**Deadline for US Amateur Entries is June 15**

**You can sign up for this event on**

**[poolplayers.com](http://poolplayers.com)**

## **It's Not Whether You Win or Lose....**

...it's how you play the game. In every race there is a winner and a loser. Does that mean that either player played over their head or that neither player played up to their potential? No. How many races are decided by one ball? How many races are decided by one player perfectly executing a defensive shot giving them the edge and ultimately resulting in a win? From the score sheets we see every week, I can tell you that over half of the races are decided this way. Does that mean that the 6 that lost did not play like a 6 or the 3 that won played well above their skill level? No. It is the nature of the game. Two pros play each other. There is always a winner and a loser. Does that mean that the pro that lost the match is any less a pro? Of course not. You can play extremely well and still lose a race. You can play really bad and still win the race. Sometimes, these types of races can raise or lower a player's skill level. Remember, skill levels are based on the best 10 of the last 20 scores. In most cases the best 10 are winning scores, but that is not always the case. We see it happen all of the time where a player loses a match and will still go up in skill level because they recorded a very good score that was just enough to bump them to the next level. Skill levels factor in many facets of the game. The strength of your opponent, the number of innings, the number of defensive shots, ball count (in 9-ball) and the overall win percentage. These facets do not all carry equal weight and any one or combination of two or more facets can raise or lower a player's skill level based on where they sit within their skill level. Every player record is unique. You cannot compare your record against someone else's and be able to predict or even question why they have not gone up and you have. Or visa versa. There are too many variables to do so. The system is designed that way on purpose to try to prevent players from manipulating the system in order to keep their skill level at a false level. Quit worrying about your skill level and play to the best of your ability each and every week. Your best one week may be the skill level of a 3. Your best the following week may be a 6. The system is based on averages and you will drive yourself crazy trying to figure it out. Concentrate on your game, keep score properly, and stop worrying about your skill level. The system does work .

## **Why Do Incentive Points Expire?**

Several former captains have found out the hard way recently that incentive points expire after they have taken a few sessions off. You may ask why? Here is the answer. The money used for the incentive program comes out of the "Players Trust Account". This money is set aside and budgeted by us for not only the incentive program, but all of the other benefits that you enjoy as members, including the payback fund, tri-cup funds, travel fund for the teams that go to nationals, trophies, patches, session end parties, 500/1000 club jackets, etc. It is also used to help supplement the "Play Till You Win" qualifiers that the members have really become attached to, Chinook Winds tournaments, entry fees for National Scotch Doubles teams and the National Wheelchair participants. National headquarters monitors and audits this fund that we have set up on a regular basis. The money is for the players and is to be spent on the players. We are also required to deplete that account each and every year. The only way to budget for the potential use of the incentive points is to go with the current captains in a year. We cannot "roll over" money that may or may not ever be used. So, once again, you may take one session off as captain. As long as you come back as captain the following session, your points will be good. If you do not come back as captain, your points will expire approximately 4 weeks after the second session begins. So, use them or lose them.

## **Captain/Co Captain's Tournament**

**Saturday, May 28 Noon**

**Midway Public House**

**Please pre-register by May 25**