



TAP Las Vegas Addendum (Revised January 2010)

This addendum to the T.A.P. rulebook contains the official rules and guidelines for TAP Las Vegas Pool League. All changes from the previous version are in RED. The information provided herein overrides any rule or guideline as it is written in the T.A.P. rulebook, if there is a difference between the two. All players are responsible for knowing the information contained herein. The purpose of this document is to create a complete set of rules that are fair for everyone and to make these rules clear and concise, reducing potential arguments.

The Las Vegas League Office has the final say on all League rules and rulings, as well as, all matters concerning the operation of the league and also has the right to refuse, suspend or terminate membership of any player if the best interest of the league and its players are served.

For questions or clarifications, please call the office at 702-558-POOL (7665), send an e-mail to jeff@taplasvegas.com or contact an Advisory Board member. The Advisory Board members and their telephone numbers are listed on the inside flap of all Weekly League Packets and on the About Us web page at www.taplasvegas.com/about_us.html.

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1. **Weekly League Fees:** It is the **team's** responsibility to pay \$40.00 per week for standard divisions and \$50.00 per week for money league divisions, *regardless of forfeits or execution of the "Team Survival Rule"* outlined herein. Two consecutive weeks of non-payment of league fees is grounds for termination of the team from the league.

Each team is responsible for paying the team dues in full each week for the number of scheduled matches including forfeits. A \$10.00 fee will be assessed for any NSF checks.

NOTE: In a money league, the additional \$10/week/team goes towards cash awards for the teams; all teams receive money back based on where they place.

2. **Membership Dues:** NOTE: TAP Las Vegas is billed the membership fee for all players on a roster. The following rules are set up to support this billing structure.
 - a. **Renewals** - Annual memberships expire one year from the date they were paid. Membership dues must be paid no later than your renewal due date. If the membership renewal is not paid, the player will be dropped from the roster and their matches will go in as LOSS under "Open Stats" (see section "c" below for "Stat Retrieval"). Player membership renewals may take several weeks to be officially posted on the team roster. If you have a question regarding your payment, please contact the league office.
 - b. **New Members** - If you are adding a new player, they **MUST** complete a membership application and pay the \$20 membership fee the **first week** they play. They **WILL NOT** be added to the roster on the official **weekly stat sheets** until after they have played their first week and paid their membership. Matches played by new players who do not pay their membership fee the first week count as a **LOSS** under "Open Stats" in the team standings and the player **WILL NOT** be added to the roster on the weekly stat sheets. If the "Stat Retrieval" process is followed this can be reversed (see section "c" below for details).
NOTE: A \$10.00 fee will be assessed for any NSF checks.
 - c. **STAT RETRIEVAL** – *Payment of \$10.00 (along with membership payment) and a written request* for stat retrieval in the packet must be made **within two weeks of play**. After this time, the record becomes permanent. Once the stats have been retrieved, match wins and losses will show accordingly for the player and team.
3. **Penalty Points:** Teams are given three (3) FRIENDLY REMINDERS regarding 1) *insufficient funds in packet*; 2) *score sheets not filled out entirely or*; 3) *late packets*. On the 4th reminder, we will assess your team (1) penalty point. We do not like to exercise this option, however, when any one of these categories is consistently incomplete, we cannot do our job efficiently, interrupting our weekly processing routine. This places a burden on our responsibilities to our corporate office as well as to other players in your division. Thank you for your understanding.
4. **TEAM HANDICAP LIMITS:** Team handicap limit is 25 for any given team match with 5 players. Refer to the National Rule Book for teams with less than 5 players. The penalty for going over is loss of point(s) for both teams, even if the match(es) is completed and accepted by the opposing team.

CHANGE: A team can have more than one 7 on their roster; however, **two 7's cannot play in the same team match** for league play and/or tournaments. This is a National rule adopted in 1/2010.

5. New Players Handicap Conversions:

- a. *New 8-ball players with an existing H/C from another **national** league with a (2-7) rating system will start with that rating.
 - b. *New 9-ball players with an existing H/C from another **national** league with a 1-9 rating system will start at their handicap except as follows: 1 = 2; 7-8 = 6; 9 = 7
 - c. *A player with an existing H/C from a **national** league/tournament with a (4-10) Rating System starts at their H/C (-1). There are two exceptions: H/C's of (7-8) = 6.... (9-10) = 7
 - d. **All** players without a rating will start at a H/C 4, *unless it has been determined by the league office* that a specific player should start at a handicap level either higher or lower than a (4), based on personal knowledge of that players ability.
 - e. If you are a current TAP member with an 8-ball rating and join a 9-ball team, you must start at that rating. The same applies if you have a 9-ball rating and join an 8-ball team.
- *Returning players who have been away from TAP for 1 year or more and have been playing in another league will start at their most recent handicap as outlined above in a, b or c.

***This conversion chart only applies to national leagues where handicaps have been calculated based on performance. Local league handicaps that are manually assigned do not apply.**

Note: If anyone allows a new player on a team to start at a handicap lower than what is outlined above who has an existing LEAGUE rating higher (from any system, anywhere, at any time, regardless of how long it has been since that rating was issued), that player will automatically be raised to the appropriate handicap. This is cheating and will not be tolerated. No excuses will be accepted because the player knows what they are, and the Captain is responsible to find out. **Any team points that were won by that player will be deducted from the team total points and awarded to the team they played.**

6. Adding and Dropping Players:

- a. All roster changes (adding or dropping players) must be verbally communicated to the opposing team Captain **prior to the first pick of the match play.**
- b. Players cannot change teams after the 4th week.
- c. Once a player is dropped from the team roster, they cannot be added back on the team for the remainder of the session.
- d. Last week to add players: 10th week for 15 week sessions. Players can only play in the end-of-session tournaments, Vegas Masters and/or nationals, earn session paybacks and trophies if they have (6) matches played with a team during the session.

NOTE: The purpose of the above rules are to prevent teams from abusing the survival rule, disrupting teams, using ringers at the end of the session or unfairly manipulating the system. The League office may override these rules depending on the specifics of each situation. They will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

7. **Schedules:** Schedules will be included in the weekly folders and posted on the web site. Changes will be sent in the weekly folder highlighted with all changes to the session schedule. It is the responsibility of the team to go by the hard copy schedules in the folder. While we do update changes on the website, they may not be posted in the same time line as the copies in the folder. If you are not sure, call your captain or league office.

8. Teams Dropping Out/Forfeits:

- a. Occasionally a team will drop out of the league unexpectedly and not show up to play their scheduled match.
 - **If this happens thru week 13**, the team will be dropped from the roster, creating a BYE slot. The team they were scheduled to play will receive a Bye and 3-2 win for that match and NOT be required to pay for that match. It will not be a 5-0 win. A 5-0 win can have a significant impact on the total team points/standings in the division and isn't fair to the rest of the teams because in the following weeks, the other teams only receive a 3-2 for that bye spot created in the schedule and statistically, 5-0's are rare. No league fees are due.
 - For **weeks 14 & 15**, the match is considered a forfeit by the team who is unable to play. An average of the weekly games won will be given to the team that would have played. No league fees are due.
- b. If a team drops mid-session, barring any extreme circumstances, the team will be ineligible for future play. The league office will review these on a case-by-case basis should they occur.
- c. Players from a team that drops will be responsible for their portion of any and all unpaid league fees in order to remain in good standing and receive any payouts from other teams.
- d. If a team chooses to forfeit a match, without dropping out of the division, it would be a 3-0 win for the team that showed up to play initially. Each team will be given the opportunity to make up the remaining 2 matches only.

If the team that received 3-0 wants the chance for more points, they must notify the League Office of their intentions **within 2 weeks** and arrange a make-up with the other team for 2 matches only **or the 3-0 forfeit will remain**. This gives the team that originally came to play a chance for 5-0, but they will have to earn the two points in match play.

NOTE: If the opposing team refuses to make up the 2 matches, the team requesting the make-up will receive 2 points for the forfeit and the team that refused to make up the matches will become ineligible for all upper level tournaments (barring any extreme circumstances), including the Vegas Masters. **Points should never be given away and it is considered a Sportsmanship Violation to do so. Any exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the League Office.**

If both teams choose not to do the make-up, neither team will get the 2 points. **Both teams are responsible for paying the weekly dues in full.**

- e. If less than a full team (1 or more players) shows up to play and refuses to play with the number of players present, those matches will be considered forfeits towards the two possible make-up matches described under the 3-0 forfeit rule for teams that no show, but continue to play in the league in subsequent weeks.
- f. For a team to claim a forfeit, it must identify that match as "Open Stats" for the winning team and "Forfeit" for the losing team on the score sheet.

9. Rescheduling & Make-up Matches:

- a. Rescheduling must be agreed to by both teams and arranged with the league office at least 24 hours in advance barring any extreme circumstances or it is considered a forfeit by the team that cannot play. Less than 24 hour notice requires approval from the league office.
- b. If a rescheduled match goes un-played because of either team, the team that is willing to play will receive 5 forfeit points. If both teams fail to play, neither team receives the points. In either case, both teams must pay for the match to maintain the proper payback for the

other teams in the Division. The match still needs to be completed prior to the last two weeks in the session.

- c. All make-up matches need to be completed by **week 13 barring any extreme circumstances**. If matches need to be made up after this time, the league office will determine the outcome on a case by case basis.
- d. **Both teams will be required to pay their weekly dues because the paybacks, trophies, awards, etc. are generated from weekly dues and total team count in each Division. Each team makes the commitment from the beginning of the season to play the entire session.**
- e. Once a team agrees to reschedule a match with the opposing team, they cannot change their mind at a later date for any reason. Both Captains' must notify the league office to verify the SPECIFIC decision made by both captains before the agreement is binding. If the agreement has not been clearly defined and verified to the league office by both teams, the ruling will go to the team that has made the proper effort towards insuring the make-up. This puts equal responsibility on both teams to make it happen.

10. **Statistics, Team and Individual** – Score sheets are entered into PoolNet (computerized statistics program) on a weekly basis, typically no later than Sunday of each week. Each time a score sheet is entered into PoolNet, handicaps adjust accordingly. At times, you may find slight handicap variations between what you view on line vs. the stat sheet in your weekly league packet. This is typically due to the timing of score sheet entry and the printing of stat sheets and people who play multiple nights. The handicap for players *printed* on the stat sheet in the weekly league packet is the handicap that is to be used for players if there is a difference.

Team and individual statistics are available on line at www.taplasvegas.com/statistics.html. From here players, can request a login ID and passcode to obtain their individual stats. No passcode is needed for team stats.

11. **Beginning the match:**
- a. Once a captain has selected their player for a match, they cannot change their selection once the opposing captain has made his/her selection. Once both captains have made their selection – neither captain can change.
 - b. To start play for the evening, one (1) player needs to be present to begin the match at NO LATER than **15 minutes past start time (7:15 PM on league nights) (give or take 5 minutes due to clock variations)**. Once that match is over, another player must be present and ready to shoot in (5) minutes or that match is forfeited. For each subsequent match, the team has (5) minutes to field a player or that match is also forfeited.
 - c. If there are no players present from a team **by 7:20 PM**, the team that showed up can elect to receive a 3-0 forfeit win (see Forfeit Section below for more detail).
12. **Continuous Play & Use of Two Tables:** If the 4th match has not started by 9:00 PM, a second table (if available) will be opened to complete the matches. **This is not optional unless agreed upon by both teams.**

13. **Team Survival Rule & Burn Out Strategy (TEAM IS SHORT PLAYERS):**

- a. There are two rules/strategies that can be used when a team is short players: Team Survival and the Burn Out Strategy. Teams are encouraged to use the Team Survival rule during league play, as this allows more players to participate in league play.
- b. Teams are encouraged to read more about the Burn Out Strategy in the National Rule Book. This strategy can be used to your advantage or used against you at any upper level tournament. **Team Survival CANNOT be used during tournament competition.**
- c. All Teams, regardless of how many players are on the roster, are allowed to use team survival, which allows one player to play twice if the team cannot field (5) players within the 25 rule.
- d. At any point during the night if a team is short players, they can announce to their opponent that they are utilizing the "Team Survival Rule."
- e. At that time, the opposing team must select any one of the team members that came to play. He/she will play twice and must keep the team within the (25) rule. **Under no circumstances can (2) players play twice.**
- f. If both teams only have 4 players, each team will pick a player from their *own* team to play twice for the fifth match, following the rotation selection determined by the original coin toss.
- g. If either team has less than 4 players, the team with the most players has the option of picking any one of the players that came to play on the opposing team. The player chosen to play twice must keep the team within the (25) rule.
- h. If your team is short players, all players must be present for the pick of the double play match. This prevents the team that is short players from sending their lowest ranked players home and forcing the other team to pick a higher ranked player.
- i. Once a player has been chosen to play twice for the last match, any missing players from that team that arrive later will be ineligible to play unless both teams agree to let the late player play.
- j. *Team survival CANNOT be used in conjunction with the Burn out Strategy.*
- k. If two teams play two players twice, the match will be voided and neither team will receive a point. All violations must be reported to the league office within two weeks.
- l. If a team declares that a specific player(s) will not be coming to play and/or declares they will be using the "Team Survival Rule" for double play of one player, those declared players are now considered ineligible for all matches. The reason is; the opposing team may now use a different pick strategy, knowing specific players will not be playing. Note: To avoid this potential problem, DON'T TELL THE OPPOSING TEAM ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR ROSTER. You are not required to reveal your roster to the opposing team.
- m. The Team Survival rule cannot be used in tournaments, such as, the Vegas Masters. Teams CAN use the Burn Out Strategy (see the National Rule Book for details).

14. **Coaching "If either the player or the coach suggests or asks for a time out, it MUST be taken. This is a National rule."**

If the coach *touches* any of *the balls* or *marks the table* in any way, it is a ball-in-hand foul to the opponent. Any object placed on the table by the coach is considered a mark. To avoid any controversy over whether the table was marked or not, the coach should avoid touching any portion of the felt (however, this is not a foul). The coach should only point at the position on the felt or ball they want their player to hit.

Once the coach has delivered their advice to the shooting player and walks away from the table, they can re-approach the table to offer additional advice **providing there is still time left in the (1) minute timeout**. If the coach returns to the table and offers additional advice

after the time limit has expired, the player will be **charged with their second time out** if that coach is warned by the opposing team prior to approaching the table a second time. If no timeouts remain, the coach will be given a sportsmanship warning. Any further infractions will result in a ball-in-hand foul to the opposing teams' player regardless of what match the violation occurs.

- A. The coach cannot place the cue ball in a ball-in-hand foul situation.
- B. The coach **cannot** use any equipment when coaching.
- C. The coach must be an active member of the team.

Walking up to the table during a non-time out situation is disruptive to the two players at the table – and ILLEGAL. Remember, the match belongs to the two players, not the spectators. One warning will be given – then Ball in hand foul.

You cannot have a conversation with your player while they are at the table (H/C 2 is the exception – see rule book). You can, however, talk to the player when it is not their turn. As soon as the cue ball comes to rest, that player's shot is officially over, and officially the next players shot.

A FOUL can only be called by the coach if a time out remains! Violation of this falls under Interference and Side Line Coaching (see below).

ANYONE CAN REMIND A PLAYER TO MARK THEIR POCKET FOR THE 8-BALL.

A player cannot be shooting their own match and coaching a different table unless their opponent agrees to let them do so. This can be disruptive to that player's game. If the opponent disagrees, **the opposing team must allow a change of coaches** if needed.

Only the coach or player can ask for a third party to watch a hit. If another teammate requests a hit to be watched, a warning will be given. The next offense is ball in hand.

15. **Interference and Side Line Coaching** - Any Person, who interferes with the course of the match by offering advice, distracting a player, or otherwise disturbing play, can subject their player to a ball-in-hand foul. This includes a player other than the original coach, attempting to coach the shooter. For the first infraction, that player is charged with a "time out" and the Captain must warn the individual involved, and that player's Team Captain/coach. After the warning, any reoccurrence of the offensive behavior results in a ball-in-hand foul. The way to avoid this penalty is to **be quiet, be courteous, and be a sportsman while the players are shooting**. Making comments to distract a player's opponent is considered SHARKING. Sharking is a form of cheating.
16. **Sportsmanship Violation:** If a **sportsmanship violation** occurs, that player needs to be written up on a Sportsmanship Violation form. It must then be submitted to the league office for review. If a violation is issued, the first infraction results in a warning. Second is a (1) week suspension. Third is an indefinite suspension from the league. Any **fighting or verbal abuse** will not be tolerated and may result in a more immediate harsher penalty depending on the severity of the incident, as determined by the League Operators and/or Advisory Board.

17. **Protest:** If your team wants to protest a match or challenge a team for any reason, the following must occur:
- Written notification and explanation must be turned in with the folder *that night*.
 - All matches must be completed – no exceptions!
- \$15 protest fee must be included in the packet by the protesting team only. The money will be refunded if the protest is proven valid and correct. **If the score sheets are turned in for that week without the protest documented, and/or the \$15, the match is considered final, and the league office will review no protest.**
18. **Player Audits:** Player audits are encouraged if a player is believed to be over/under rated. The form can be found on www.taplasvegas.com. The purpose of an audit is to ensure the accuracy of a player's handicap based on a CONSISTENT level of play over time. Shooting above the posted handicap for 3-5 weeks does not necessarily justify a player's handicap should go up, because that same player may suddenly have 3-5 bad weeks of play. To determine whether an audit is needed, the player in question should be shooting at least 1½ levels above their posted handicap on the roster. Remember that the computer sees statistical data ONLY and that is where the handicaps are derived.
19. **Tiebreaker formula:** If two teams tie at the end of the session, the tiebreaker will be the outcome of the match(es) they played against each other. If the teams played each other twice and are still tied, the determining variable will be the percentage of games won compared to the number of games needed to win in the player match ups. If the two teams are still tied, the outcome of the last match played will determine the winner. The formula is total "Games Won" divided by total "Race To" games. If three teams tie and have played each other an uneven number of times, the tiebreaker will be the average of matches won per the number of team matches played. The formula is total match points divided by total team matches played.
20. **Division Payback and Awards (beginning in 2010)** – Paybacks vary depending on the number of teams in each division. Paybacks, trophies, certificates and patches are awarded at the league party. Paybacks are given to the captain only unless prior arrangements are made.
- Divisions with 7 teams or less receive payouts to 50% of the teams. 1st Place trophies only are awarded.*
 - Divisions with 8 teams or more – receive payouts to 50% of the teams rounded down and - 1 plus a wild card. For instance, if there are 8 teams, 1st, 2nd & 3rd place and a wild card are paid for placing. Teams with 11 teams: 1st thru 4th and a wild card are paid. 1st & 2nd Place trophies are awarded.*
 - Wild cards also qualify player and earn a position in the Vegas Masters. See more info below.*
21. **The Road To The T.A.P. Nationals: (2) tier process**
- Win your Division in either 1st thru 3rd Place or win the Wild Card drawing and qualify for the Vegas Masters to be held in the summer each year.
 - Win the "Vegas Masters" and we send you to the "T.A.P. Nationals" in Oct/Nov. (See Vegas Masters Rules for more information.)

22. MVP Program:

- a. Three (3) MVP's per Division will be awarded: (2's & 3's), (4's & 5's), (6's & 7's).
- b. A player's MVP number is determined by the match win percentage plus H factor.
- c. Players must have a minimum of 8 matches played.
- d. Each MVP receives a achievement certificate (or a similar token) and a cash award.
- e. Players that may shoot twice in one night, thereby creating the potential of more matches played for the session, are still eligible for the MVP since the calculations are based on match win percentages. In the event of an exact tie, the players will have a playoff match.
- f. If a player's H/C goes up and moves them to the next highest bracket, they must play at least one match in the new bracket to be eligible for the MVP in that bracket, otherwise they will be considered as part of the previous bracket. There are scenarios where this may not be fair, however, working together, the TAP Las Vegas league and Phoenix Advisory Board (which sports 100+ teams!) have determined this to be the fairest way to conduct this program. Sometimes breaks of the game just come into play. The program is what it is. Nothing more ...nothing less. It was developed to create additional excitement in the league.

23. Recruitment Incentive – Up to \$100.00 Value

- a. Any “**active T.A.P. member**” who builds and is captain of a “**new team**” will receive \$25.00 at the end of the session at the League Party and TAP Las Vegas will pay their membership when due after the session is complete.
- b. An “**active T.A.P. member**” is someone who played a minimum of 6 matches in the previous session and remains current with their membership.
- c. A “**new team**” consists of a minimum of 3 **new** T.A.P. members.
- d. The new members must play 6 matches during the new session on the new team and remain on the team through the end of the session.
- e. **Bonus promotion may be offered for some sessions.**

24. Local Tournaments: All tournament entry fees must be paid during sign up to secure your position in the tournament. The number of prepaid entries determines the size of the board. An accurate pre-count is needed to prepare for the tournament and board positioning.

- a. A variety of tournaments will be offered each session. Check the Tournament schedule on the web site or flyers in your folder for dates, times, locations and formats.
- b. You must play at your *current* 8-ball or 9-ball rating at the time of the tournament.
- c. To ensure that all participants have an established handicap, to participate in any TAP Singles Tournament:
 - Player must have a minimum of (4) match scores entered in the data base and be active on a current TAP Las Vegas roster.
 - Players with less than six matches played will be audited and handicaps may be adjusted as seen appropriate by the tournament director.

25. Rule Clarifications

a. Shooting The Wrong Balls (8-Ball):

- If Player #1 shoots all Player #2's balls and legally pockets the 8-Ball, Player #1 wins the game because the game is now over. Player #2 cannot reverse the outcome. He/She should have called a foul after the first ball was pocketed.
- If Player #1 shoots Player #2's ball(s), and switches back to the correct balls and makes a legal shot before Player #2 calls a foul, Player #1 is allowed to continue shooting. He/she should have called the foul after the first infraction.

- If a foul is not called after the first wrong ball has been pocketed and the player continues shooting until they miss, they are now that category of balls for the remainder of that game. The only option would be if both players agreed to re-rack the game due to the error.
- b. **Mark the Pocket in 8-Ball & 9-Ball** – League rules state a player must mark the pocket for both the 8 ball and 9 ball. However, it is acceptable if both players verbally agree to call the pocket. It is recommended that players get into the habit of marking the pocket, as this is required in upper level tournaments.
 - c. **Shooting the 9 Ball** – If a player calls the pocket for the 9-ball and misses, but another ball pockets, the player continues shooting.
 - d. **Marking the Table:** Marking the table is NOT ALLOWED by the shooting player. To avoid any unnecessary arguments, if you think a player has marked the table, politely tell them it is not allowed.
 - Marking the table “IS NOT” a ball in hand foul.
 - Laying a cue down on the felt to line up a shot is not necessarily marking the table. Use good judgment in this case.
 - e. **Bridge Availability:** If there is no bridge available at the host location, the shooting player must still take the shot with one foot touching the floor.
 - f. A Player cannot use an object ball as a **measuring device**. One warning should be given. The next infraction is a ball in hand foul. The cue ball can be used in a ball in hand situation.
 - g. **Four-second rule:** If a ball hangs in a pocket for longer than four (4) seconds, then drops - that ball must be brought out and placed as close to where it was before it dropped. Both players must share the cost of bringing a ball out, however, if both agree to leave it down...so be it! The match belongs to the players.
 - h. **Slow Play:** “Slow Play” occurs when a player takes longer than 45 seconds between shots. Players should first issue a warning to their opponent should “Slow Play” occur. If after being warned, the player continues to “Slow Play,” the team Captain will call the League Office to have a second warning initiated. If the player still continues to play slowly, the opposing *Captain* ONLY can call a ball-in-hand foul on the next **timed** shot that exceeds 45 seconds. If the League office cannot be reached, the *Captain* can deliver the second warning and should also fill out a Sportsmanship Violation Form and submit it to the League Office documenting the event. Remember, the 45-second shot clock is a “bench mark” for all players’ shots. Some may be shorter...some longer. You must actually time several shots to determine a violation. Perception of time is usually longer than actual time.
 - i. **Speaking Another Language:** *During a time out, a player and his coach* (or the coach consulting with another player – see coaching rules) may speak in any language. If done during any other circumstance as outlined in the National Rule Book, a warning is given and any subsequent violations result in a time out. If a time out does not remain, the opponent receives ball in hand.