



POOL LEAGUE ETIQUETTE REMINDERS

Here are some common complaints we get in the League Office related to etiquette:

- 1. Getting upset when Captains put up low-skilled players against high-skilled players (or vice versa).** This is part of the game! This is part of what makes league night fun. All players should be ready to play against players of any skill level level - that's the whole point of participating in a handicap league. Besides, when your team makes it to Playoffs and/or big tournaments (such as LTC's), it's to your team's advantage to have all your players feeling comfortable playing folks of all skill levels... because, trust us, that's what will happen when you reach higher-level play.
- 2. Trying to win on a technicality.** We're all here to play pool. It's fun to win, but there isn't really any glory or fun in winning a rack or match via some technicality. For example, if you notice that your opponent is forgetting to mark his/her pocket in an 8-Ball game, remind him/her to do so. Or, if you notice your opponent is shooting at the wrong ball, stop the person before they take the shot.
- 3. Asking your opponents which players on your team plan on playing tonight.** This is not sportsmanlike. Oftentimes, the Captains & teammates of the player(s) in question don't know for sure who is coming to league night and/or planning to participate. Asking your opponent this question has the potential of leading to hard feelings & causing all sorts of problems. Besides, part of the strategy of the game is NOT knowing who the opponent plans on putting up... so sit back and relax....enjoy the surprise! (Note - the only exception to this is during the first 4 weeks. IF your team has less than 5 people present during the first 4 weeks only, you can play ONE player twice, but you have to tell your opponent who that player will be before the night even begins).
- 4. Slow play.** Slow play takes the fun out of league night. Be ready to shoot when it's your turn. Average shot time should take 20 seconds or less.

Remember, often when players/teams violate rules of etiquette, it isn't out of malicious intent. I am sure you can all remember a time in your life when you started something new & had to "learn the ropes" in regards to appropriate actions, proper etiquette, etc.. When proper etiquette isn't followed, don't take it personally & don't assume the worst. It really might be an honest mistake. Instead, take the time to politely & patiently explain the issue at hand, or, if you don't feel comfortable, contact the League Office so that we can address it. At the end of the day, playing in the APA is about getting out & having a good time. Remember that, and you can't go wrong. :)

Here are some other related tips:

- 1. Pay attention & be ready to shoot when it's your turn.**
- 2. Avoid loud noises when your opponent is shooting.**
- 3. Do not approach the table when it's your opponent's turn at the table. Step away from the table (out of your opponent's line of vision) when your turn is over.**
- 4. Closely observe house rules. Many bars do NOT allow jump shots or masse shots. House rules always prevail.**
- 5. Don't sit on the table.**
- 6. No smoking over the table. No food or drinks on the table.**
- 7. Don't break your cue down early. Wait until the game is officially over.**
- 8. Don't celebrate your opponent's misfortunes, and don't make excuses for your own.**
- 9. If you lose, congratulate your opponent, after all they just beat the best pool-player in town.**
- 10. Maintain a fun, light-hearted attitude. Remember, pool is a game by which you judge your skill against your opponent's luck. 😊 😊 😊**