

Captains Log, July 14th, 2019

We are winding down on the end of the Summer Session. It is now too late to add players to your team. Make up matches need to be finished up before the final two weeks of play, also. There are playoffs in each division, and 2 playoffs in divisions with more than eleven teams. Each playoff has a wild card team. The wild card has always been one of my favorite things about the APA. The wild card is a random blind draw of all teams that didn't earn one of the top spots in the standings. No matter how bad of a session you might have had, you still have a chance to make the playoffs. The reason I like the wild card is because it provides incentive for every team to continue playing no matter how bad of a session they are having. If you didn't have a wild card in place, a team that knew they had no chance could drop out and create scheduling problems for the rest of the teams. If a team is paid up in all fees, has no more than 5 forfeits for the session and is in good standing with the league, they are eligible for the wild card draw. It's still a battle to be the lucky team drawn to be the wild card in the playoffs, as they won't have a home match in the playoffs and they have to play the top team in the playoffs, but not only has a wild card team won the playoffs, we have had wild card teams earn a City Championship berth and qualify for the World Pool Championships. This gives hope to any team no matter where they are in the standings. The way we conduct the wild card team is we calculate the playoffs based on the order of finish. Any team that didn't finish high enough to make the playoffs and meets all of the other eligibility requirements gets their team number placed in the leather pill bottle, shaken up and drawn by someone in the office. We used to drive around town to do the playoff wild card draws, but no one ever bothered to show up for the draw, so we just started conducting it in the office. No one in the office has ever cared what team wins the wild card draw and it seems like a bulk of the membership agrees. We still do the City Championship draw in public at the end of the Blast tournament, and no one ever really shows up for that, either. We use numbered poker chips for the City Championship and Blast draws. Luck of the draw isn't always so lucky, however! L With that said, if you don't make playoffs, you still have a crack at the wild card draw. Someone will earn that privilege, and most playoff teams get really nervous competing against the wild card team, because they really have nothing to lose. We've also had teams have such a lousy session that they requested to be taken out of the wild card. We do allow that.

Congratulations to our Junior league members that participated in the [2019 APA Junior 9 Ball Championships](#) in St. Louis, MO in July. We had 6 junior league members that made the journey to compete against players from all over North America. The ages of our participants ranged from 8 to 15. Four of those Juniors finished in 17th place in their respective tiers. 17th is an amazing finish given that there were over 500 kids participating in this tournament. Congratulations to Genevieve Ahlers, Jake Barreiro, Damian Rockafellor and Joseph Hankins on their 17th place finish. Laird Hubbard finished in 97th place and Justyn Martin finished in 129th place. The sportsmanship these kids showed throughout the tournament was outstanding. We are very proud of our Juniors. Congratulations on a great tournament! We also wish to thank our Junior Booster Club for raising enough money to help support airfare, hotel and team shirts for our Juniors. Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the Junior Fundraisers. And a sincere thank you to [Pockets Billiards and Brew](#) for hosting our Junior league and events!

Speaking of Fundraisers, it's time to start fundraising for the 2020 Junior Championship. The 4th annual "Are You Better Than a 5th Grader" tournament is scheduled for July 20th at Pockets Billiards and Brew. Check the [flyer on our Facebook page](#) San Diego APA. This is a fun tournament where adult APA league members get to compete against our Junior APA league members.

The [APA event program](#) for the 2019 APA World Pool Championships has been posted at www.poolplayers.com and on our [San Diego APA](#) and [San Diego APA Players](#) Facebook pages. The event program gives registration times, Captain and Player Meeting times along with standard information about the tournament. They have a Mini Tournament schedule for every day of the event along with exhibition schedules for Jeannette "Black Widow" Lee, "Dr. Cue" Tom Rossman and Florian "Venom" Kohler. There will be a pool party on Monday, August 11th. Even if you didn't make it on a team, if you have some free time during the [APA World Pool Championships](#), you are welcome to attend and play in minis or check out the exhibitions. Be sure to download the app called CompuSport and look for 2019 APA World Pool Championships. Under an advanced search, you can search all of the San Diego teams by looking up by League Operator Brian or Jill Frankland. Not all teams are posted at this time as we have not finalized all of the Captains teams playing in the Captains Championship, but you can have friends and family track your progress in any or all of the events taking place during August 8th through the 17th at the [Westgate Resort and Casino](#).

Shoot Pool Good! Brian, Jill and Lindsay

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