

# LEAGUE OPERATORS'



# HANDBOOK



# **WE COVER ALL LEAGUES**

Any league can join including  
APA, VNEA, ACS, TAP and all others

## INTRODUCTION

**A**re you currently operating a pool league? Are you considering starting one? Are you part of a state or regional pool league organization? Do you operate a pool tour? Are you just gathering information? No matter the answer, you're in the right place.

Before you continue, I'd like to personally thank you for considering the BCA Pool League and for spending your valuable time reading this League Operator Handbook.

Please allow me to speak openly and say something that may surprise you...the BCA Pool League may not be right for you. You read that right. We do not attempt to be all things for all people because as the saying goes, "If you try to please everyone, you end up pleasing no one." So, if you're looking to spend tens of thousands of dollars on a franchise, you're in the wrong place. If you want to pay hundreds of dollars per year to be a charter holder, you're in the wrong place. If you want your players to attend smaller events with cheap equipment, you're in the wrong place. If your only concern is price and you're not interested in the best benefits and service, you're probably in the wrong place. If, however, you are looking to align yourself and your league with a global leader and be provided with the best benefits, tools and service... welcome!

Organizing and operating pool leagues is often a thankless job. It's not effortless and it certainly isn't a get-rich-quick scheme. However, it can be very rewarding if you align yourself with the right organization and do things the correct way. We have League Operators who run leagues as volunteers and others who have fired their bosses and now do it as their full-time job. Which end of the spectrum you fall on is dependent on your goals, motivation and effort. One is not better than

the other and the BCA Pool League is a great option for you either way.



*"If you're looking to spend tens of thousands of dollars on a franchise, you're in the wrong place."*

Everything you need to know about the BCA Pool League is covered in this handbook. I apologize for the length but there is a lot of important information to convey and we have done our best to remove anything unnecessary. There isn't much "fluff" in these pages so please, read it thoroughly, reflect on it and perhaps read it again just to make sure it sinks in. If you still have questions, please contact us by any of the methods listed on the last page.

Finally, I'd also encourage you to "shop around" and compare the value offered by the BCA Pool League to any other pool league organization. Get a notepad and list all the benefits and costs of each. Software, rating systems, size & quality of events, apps, service & costs are all valid considerations so consider them all. I am confident that the BCA Pool League will be #1 on your completed ranking list.

Again, thank you for considering the BCA Pool League and we hope you join our growing family of leagues which span the entire globe.



Ozzy Reynolds  
CEO | CueSports International  
(parent company of the BCA Pool League)

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## ABOUT THE BCA POOL LEAGUE

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Welcome to the BCA Pool League!

Pool leagues provide people an opportunity to compete, network, socialize and have fun with friends, family, colleagues and even strangers. Organized leagues are the foundation of the billiards industry because they provide the framework for people to play pool routinely rather than casually. More people playing pool regularly generates more business for pool rooms, bars, cue makers, retailers, manufacturers, vending companies, etc. Without leagues, the foundation would crumble and the skyscraper that is the billiards industry would collapse.

The BCA Pool League is an umbrella membership organization that allows pool leagues around the world to "Be Part of Something Bigger." A single local league, even one with hundreds of members, is limited in what it can offer its members. However, when hundreds or thousands of leagues around the world band together under the BCA Pool League umbrella, the economy of scale provides all leagues value and benefits that they could not achieve alone.

### HISTORY

The BCA Pool League was founded in 1978 by the Billiard Congress of America (BCA) to unify independent local leagues around the world. It was the first of its kind and quickly grew to be one of the world's largest league membership organizations. In 2004, the BCA decided to primarily focus on being a trade association and it sold the BCA Pool League to CueSports International (CSI). Because it was so well-known, the BCA Pool League name was retained. However, please note that the Billiard Congress of America is not affiliated with the BCA Pool League in any way. The "BCA" in BCA Pool League now stands for Billiards & CueSports Association.

### WHO CAN JOIN

The BCA Pool League is a great option for existing League Operators, new League Operators, pool room or bar owners, regional organizations, regional pool tours and players. Which category do you fall into below?

- **Do you operate an existing league?**  
If you already operate a pool league, even if it's a member of another organization such as VNEA, ACS, TAP, APA, or any other body, your league can still join the BCA Pool League and receive all the [benefits](#) of membership. This is a great way to provide even more value and benefits to your players.
- **Are you a pool room or bar owner?**  
Organizing pool leagues in your establishment is a great way to get people in the door and generate more business. We can help you get started every step of the way.

- **Are you a member of a state or regional pool league or event organization?**  
If you are a member of a state or regional organization, take a look at the special affiliate organization benefits discussed in the section titled [Affiliate Organizations](#). The BCA Pool League provides tremendous benefits to many state and regional organizations.
- **Do you operate a regional pool tour or tournament series?**  
Regional pool tours can also join the BCA Pool League and all tour players can enjoy all of the benefits. See the [Regional Pool Tours](#) section for more information.
- **Do you want to join a league?**  
If you are a player looking to learn more about the BCA Pool League, read on!

No matter the answer, we can help.

## BENEFITS & ADVANTAGES

The benefits and advantages of joining the BCA Pool League are not matched by any other organization. Of course, we think that so read on and decide for yourself.

### Any League Can Join

The BCA Pool League is a membership organization for all pool leagues. It doesn't matter if your league plays 8-ball, 9-ball, 10-ball, straight pool, one pocket, bank pool, or any other pocket billiards game. It also doesn't matter if your league is a member of another organization such as APA, VNEA, ACS, TAP or any other. We welcome and encourage all leagues to unite under the BCA Pool League umbrella, enjoy the many benefits and "Become Part of Something Bigger."

### Your League – Your Way

Your league is just that...your league. The BCA Pool League will never attempt to control your league. Although we do provide suggestions for a well-organized and successful league, which are detailed in the section titled [Suggested League Policies](#), you are free to make all decisions to best suit your players. After all, what works best in Chicago, Illinois may not be best in Casper, Wyoming.

### BCA Pool League World Championships

All of your players can easily become eligible for the BCA Pool League World Championships in Las Vegas. Your players do not have to win the league or numerous city, state or regional events to qualify. They simply need to be a member in good standing and meet a few simple requirements outlined in the section titled [Member Eligibility](#).

There is no other league championship that matches the combination of size, quality, atmosphere and prestige of the BCA Pool League World Championships. Each year, thousands of pool players from around the globe descend upon Las Vegas to compete on more than 300 Diamond pool tables arranged in a

150,000 square foot convention center. The event boasts 30+ divisions for all skill levels, games, and formats. It is an unforgettable experience.

The BCA Pool League World Championships is part of the CueSports International Expo which showcases two league championships, incredible professional events, numerous exhibitors, meetings, seminars and more all under one roof. It truly is "The Greatest Pool Experience in the World." For more information about the CueSports International Expo, visit [www.CueSportsInternationalExpo.com](http://www.CueSportsInternationalExpo.com).

### State & Regional Events

The BCA Pool League also offers state and regional events in various locations. Some are conducted by the BCA Pool League and others are conducted by [affiliate organizations](#). Your players can easily become eligible for these events. Again, they do not have to win the league or numerous other events to qualify. They simply need to be a member in good standing and meet a few simple requirements outlined in each event's rules and regulations. For a list of upcoming events, visit [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

### Premium Equipment & Playing Conditions

The BCA Pool League is a premium product. It is not in our DNA to sacrifice quality or cut corners to reduce costs. Therefore, we offer only the best equipment and playing conditions at our events.

### FargoRate

As members of the BCA Pool League, you and your players get full and free use of FargoRate and its products and services.

FargoRate is replacing outdated methods of rating pool players and has quickly become the most trusted and universally-accepted rating system in the world. Other classifications such as Open-Advanced-Master, A-B-C, 1-2-3, and others, rely on subjective judgment, rating committees, complicated score keeping, etc. They are susceptible to human error, emotion and politics. Simply put, they are a thing of the past and thanks to FargoRate, we can all do better.

FargoRate is a data-driven, performance-based system that computes ratings for amateur and professional players worldwide by coupling win/loss data across local leagues, states, regions, countries, and continents. All pool players everywhere, whether male or female, amateur or pro, are rated on the same scale. A Fargo rating of 620 means the same thing in Halifax, Nova Scotia as it does in Christchurch, New Zealand as it does in Phoenix, USA.

### League Management System (LMS)

As members of the BCA Pool League, you and your players get free use of the FargoRate League Management System (LMS). It is the only pool league management software in the world with FargoRate built in. It is robust, easy to use, and is well-suited for a small local league or a large regional association. Some of the most notable features include:



- League data automatically flows into FargoRate
- Option to use FargoRate for team caps and/or handicapping
- Online league stats and standings
- Supports numerous league formats
- Detailed membership reports to track weekly league fees and membership fees
- Automatically generates simple or complex league schedules
- Copy previous divisions to save time setting up new sessions
- And we are constantly adding more functionality!

### FargoRate App (Premium Features)

As part of our partnership with FargoRate, you and your players get free access to premium features of the FargoRate app (\$12.99 per year for non-members). Anyone may download the app for free and use the basic features. However, the premium features require an annual subscription. Premium features include allowing players to see their complete game history, aggregated history against each opponent, advanced searching features, find fair races, determine match odds, follow your favorite players, and much more.

### Personalized Digital Membership Card

Physical cards are a thing of the past. You and your players get personalized digital membership cards built right into the FargoRate app. The digital card shows the member's profile picture, Fargo rating, robustness and their BCA Pool League membership number with a matching bar code. This bar code can be scanned at BCA Pool League events for faster service.

### League Promotional Materials

You will also receive free promotional materials such as BCA Pool League posters to help you advertise your league in the local area and a league awards package to reward your players at the end of the session. For a complete list of what's included, please refer to the current Membership Application.

### Financial and Logistical Support for Your Events

In certain instances, the BCA Pool League provides financial and logistical support for League Operators or [Affiliate Organizations](#) who organize and conduct local, state or regional events for BCA Pool League members. For more information, see the [STAMP](#) section of this handbook.

### Membership Discounts

You and your players will also receive exclusive membership discounts such as \$250 off Diamond pool tables, 50% off Billiards Digest magazine subscriptions, hotel discounts, rental car discounts and savings on thousands of other products and services through Working Advantage. For more information about membership discounts, visit [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

## Full-Time Customer Support

We are here for you. We have a fully-staffed office of trained professionals ready to help with anything you may need. Our office is open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (Pacific Time), excluding major holidays. We can be reached via email or phone:

- Email: [bcapl@playcsipool.com](mailto:bcapl@playcsipool.com)
- Phone: 866-USA-POOL or 702-719-POOL

## League Credibility

Becoming part of the BCA Pool League gives your league instant credibility and provides your players with superior value. Being the longest running league organization, having tens of thousands of members worldwide and being supported by CueSports International, a global leader in pool leagues, events and media content, your league will truly “Be Part of Something Bigger.”

## HOW TO GET STARTED

Joining the BCA Pool League is as easy as 1-2-3. Follow the steps below or call us at 866-USA-POOL and we will guide you through the process.



**Read this handbook completely and thoroughly.** It is important that you understand all aspects of the BCA Pool League to ensure that you and your players get maximum benefit and have the best possible experience.



**Complete the Membership Application.** It is very short and simple and only takes a few minutes to complete. The membership application can be found at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).



**Submit the Membership Application.** You can submit the membership application online, email, fax or postal mail. We will review the application quickly and contact you via email and/or phone once it's approved.

That's it! It really is that easy.  
Contact us today to “Be Part of Something Bigger.”

### BCA Pool League

1-866-USA-POOL or 702-719-7665

[bcapl@playcsipool.com](mailto:bcapl@playcsipool.com)

# BCA POOL LEAGUE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

There is no other league championship that matches the combination of size, quality and prestige of the BCA Pool League World Championships. Each year, thousands of BCA Pool League members from around the globe descend upon Las Vegas to compete on more than 300 Diamond pool tables arranged in a 150,000 square foot convention center. It's breathtaking.

## A BREATHTAKING EXPERIENCE



## DIVISIONS OFFERED

The event boasts 30+ divisions for all skill levels, games, and formats including:

SCOTCH DOUBLES	SINGLES	TEAMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-Ball Divisions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Platinum</li> <li>○ Gold</li> <li>○ Silver</li> <li>○ Bronze</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9-Ball Divisions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Platinum</li> <li>○ Gold</li> <li>○ Silver</li> <li>○ Junior</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 8-Ball Divisions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Platinum</li> <li>○ Gold</li> <li>○ Silver</li> <li>○ Bronze</li> <li>○ Fairmatch</li> <li>○ Junior</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ladies 8-Ball Divisions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Platinum</li> <li>○ Gold</li> <li>○ Silver</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Senior 8-Ball Divisions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Platinum</li> <li>○ Gold</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-Ball Teams                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Diamond</li> <li>○ Platinum</li> <li>○ Gold</li> <li>○ Silver</li> <li>○ Bronze</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ladies 8-Ball Teams</li> <li>• 9-Ball Teams                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Platinum</li> <li>○ Gold</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## DIVISIONS DETERMINED BY FARGORATE

All divisions at the BCA Pool League World Championships are based on FargoRate. Singles divisions are typically determined by splitting the entire pool of players into several proportioned divisions (i.e. Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze) based on the players' Fargo ratings. Doubles and team divisions have maximum allowable team ratings based on the teammates' Fargo ratings.

### Starter Ratings

If a player does not have an established Fargo rating, which is based on at least 200 games of data, the BCA Pool League will assign a starter rating. Beware...to protect the integrity of the event, we err on the side of caution and assign starter ratings that tend to be higher than actual ability. Therefore, it's in your best interest to use LMS so your league's data flows into FargoRate and your players earn established ratings.

## MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

BCA Pool League members do not need to win their way into the BCA Pool League World Championships. All of your players can easily become eligible to participate in Las Vegas simply by meeting two types of requirements: weeks played and maximum rating.

### Weeks Played Requirement

To be eligible, your players must play a specified number of league matches (usually one match per week unless otherwise approved) in a single division's session during the league year. This requirement is in place to encourage greater participation in your league as a benefit to you as the League Operator, the host venues and the entire sport. Exceptions to this requirement are only considered if requested by the League Operator.

### Maximum Rating Requirement

Although anyone may play in your local league, BCA Pool League events are reserved for amateur pool players only. Professional players are not allowed to participate in the amateur league divisions. The BCA Pool League defines a professional player as anyone with a Fargo rating greater than 720.

### Team Division Requirements

There are numerous team divisions offered at the BCA Pool League World Championships and each has its own composition requirements such as same league, same state, etc. These requirements may change from year to year so please review the Player Guide of the specific BCA Pool League World Championships event at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

The BCA Pool League World Championships are part of the CueSports International Expo which showcases two league championships, the biggest and most prestigious professional events, numerous exhibitors, meetings, seminars and more all under one roof. It truly is "The Greatest Pool Experience in the World." For more information about the CueSports International Expo, visit [www.CueSportsInternationalExpo.com](http://www.CueSportsInternationalExpo.com).

playbcapool.com



**GET  
READY** FOR

THOUSANDS OF PLAYERS

HUNDREDS OF TABLES

SINGLES, DOUBLES & TEAMS

8-BALL, 9-BALL & 10-BALL



JB CASES



## STATE TOURN. ADDED MONEY PROGRAM (STAMP)

The State Tournament Added Money Program (STAMP) is a benefit in which the BCA Pool League will add prize money and provide logistical support to local, state or regional events that meet the STAMP criteria. The program is a benefit to BCA Pool League Operators, affiliate organizations and members. It allows anyone, usually League Operators or affiliate organizations, to conduct BCA Pool League events to better service existing members and attract new ones.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Anyone wanting to conduct an event open only to BCA Pool League and USA Pool League (our sister league) members may apply for STAMP support.

### STAMP PROCESS

The process to receive STAMP support is very easy. Simply follow the below steps.

- 1 **Submit the STAMP Application** (at least six months prior to the event)
- 2 **BCA Pool League Review & Approval**
- 3 **Promote the Event**
- 4 **Conduct the Event**
- 5 **Submit Final Event Data & Results**

#### Application Process

The STAMP Application can be found at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com). It is important for us to understand every aspect of the event. Be thorough and complete to avoid delays or rejection.

Applications must be submitted at least six (6) months prior to the event start date. This ensures adequate time for proper marketing and promotion of the event to existing and potential league members in the region.

If the application is approved, 75% of the approved funds will be remitted to the applicant prior to the event. The remaining 25% will be remitted after we receive the final event data and results. All STAMP funds must be used for the event prize fund.

### Venue/Equipment

We hold ourselves and our member experience to a high standard. The venue must be of adequate size and have adequate parking for all participants and offer a clean and safe atmosphere. Equipment such as the pool tables, balls, racks, bridges, lighting, etc. must be clean and in good condition.

### Target Market

It is important that you understand your target market. Who do you want to attract? Are there existing BCA Pool Leagues in the region? Are there non-BCA Pool Leagues in the region that may join in order to participate in the event? How many members are in these leagues? How will you market to them? Answers to these questions are critical to the success of the event.

### Marketing/Promotion

Although the BCA Pool League will assist in the marketing and promotion of the event, it is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to actively promote the event. To be approved, the marketing and promotion plan must be included with the application.

### Event Format

Some games and formats do not adequately serve our members or align with our objectives. To be eligible for STAMP support, events must follow the following format guidelines.

#### *Game(s)*

The game(s) played must be 8-ball, 9-ball or 10-ball.

#### *Races*

Races between two players in singles competition must typically be no shorter than four (4) and no longer than seven (7). Round robin races between two teams must typically be no shorter than seven (7) and no longer than thirteen (13).

#### *Divisions & Handicapping*

If the event offers divisions for various skill levels, FargoRate must be used to determine divisions. Other classifications such as A-B-C, Open-Advanced-Master, 5-6-7, etc. are not acceptable. If the event offers handicapped divisions, FargoRate must be used as the handicapping method. The event may use hot, medium or mild handicaps as defined by FargoRate.

### *Tournament Software*

The event must use BCA Pool League-approved software for online tournament brackets and match scores. The tournament brackets must be publicly posted on social media or a website. In some cases, the [CueSports Tournament System \(CTS\)](#) may be required.

### *Players' Information*

Full legal names, correctly spelled, are required on the tournament brackets. The applicant must also provide a complete roster of each division, in an Excel spreadsheet, with:

- full legal player names
- city & state of player residence
- player email addresses
- BCA Pool League membership numbers

### *Scores*

Accurate scores (not including handicap points) of every match must be recorded in the software. Depending on the tournament software used, it may also be required that the applicant submit match scores in an Excel spreadsheet to the BCA Pool League.

### *Final Data & Results*

The applicant must submit final results and match data no later than 30 days after the conclusion of the event.



## AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

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The BCA Pool League is not just for individual leagues. It's also a great option for large state and regional league organizations.

### WHAT IS AN AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION?

State and regional pool league organizations are often formed to organize and conduct state or regional events. An affiliate organization is one that joins the BCA Pool League and requires all of its leagues to also join the BCA Pool League.

Although many state and regional league organizations are quite large, they are often still too small to provide many of the benefits offered by the BCA Pool League. By affiliating with the BCA Pool League, all of the organizations' members and League Operators can receive the [benefits and advantages](#). However, there are even more benefits designed especially for organizations.

### ORGANIZATIONAL BENEFITS

Below are the benefits reserved specifically for our affiliate organizations.

#### Organization Account in the FargoRate League Management System (LMS)

The FargoRate League Management System (LMS), which is detailed in the section titled [Online League Management System \(LMS\)](#), also has an Organization Account feature built especially for state and regional organizations. Organizations can login and see the activity for all of their member leagues. They can also generate special reports that are helpful for determining tournament eligibility and player ratings.

#### Online Tournament Registration System

CueSports International (CSI), parent company of the BCA Pool League, has spent a significant amount of time and money developing a robust online tournament registration system. This [online registration system is available for free to affiliate organizations that organize and conduct events](#) and all entry fees go directly to the association.

It is the [only online registration system in the world with FargoRate built in](#) and it is connected to the BCA Pool League player database. This allows affiliate organizations to set their own specifications such as team limits, maximum or minimum player ratings, FargoRate handicapping, registration deadlines, and much more. These specifications are enforced when players register online; drastically reducing the amount of verification time required of the organization.

#### CueSports Tournament System (CTS)

CSI has also developed a custom tournament management system called the CueSports Tournament System (CTS). CTS is directly integrated with the CSI online registration system and it's [the only tournament management system in the world with FargoRate built in](#).

Using CTS, the organization can instantly split an entire group of players into divisions by Fargo ratings, specify FargoRate handicapping, automatically schedule tables and match times, print score sheets with bar codes which can be scanned for quick scoring, display live scoring, and much more.

### Enhanced STAMP Benefits

Affiliate organizations who conduct events are also eligible for the STAMP benefits detailed in the section titled [State Tournament Added Money Program \(STAMP\)](#). In some cases, the BCA Pool League provides even greater support for affiliate organization events. Access to Diamond tables, personnel, access to sponsors, etc. are some examples of the enhanced support that may be available.

### Marketing Support

The BCA Pool League and CSI have a broad and effective marketing capability that is normally not feasible for a smaller state or regional organization to develop. We assist our affiliate organizations in their marketing efforts in the following ways.

#### *Graphic Design*

In some cases, we provide affiliate organizations with graphic design services to help develop posters, flyers, social media images, etc. to help promote the organization and its events.

#### *Email*

We have an email list consisting of tens of thousands of pool players which can be segmented by geography, gender, Fargo rating, and more. We help our affiliate organizations promote themselves and their events by creating and sending targeted email campaigns on their behalf.

#### *Social Media*

We help organizations promote themselves and their events using BCA Pool League social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

#### *Website*

We list affiliate organizations and their events on our website at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

## CASE STUDY: THE WESTERN BCA

The Western BCA, a league organization formed in 1995 in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States (Oregon-Washington-Idaho), is an excellent example of a BCA Pool League affiliate organization.

The Western BCA is managed by seven Board of Directors and a panel of elected officers. Among other duties, the Board of Directors and officers organize and conduct two very impressive annual events for its members. As of this writing, it consists of 25 leagues and more than 4,000 members.

Every member of the Western BCA is also required to be a member of the BCA Pool League. In return, the BCA Pool League provides financial support through STAMP. As an affiliate organization, the Western BCA also receives other benefits that would be difficult to develop on its own.

In early 2018, even though its events were already tremendously successful, the Western BCA decided to abandon its old rating method and switch to FargoRate. They saw the value and were not afraid to give up the familiar for the better. A representative from the BCA Pool League and FargoRate traveled to Portland, Oregon to answer questions and help with the transition. In just a few short weeks, the Western BCA had totally restructured and transformed its events. The Board received expected criticism from some who spouted phrases such as “don’t fix something that isn’t broken” and “the old way has worked just fine for all these years.” However, they confidently moved forward with what they knew would be an improvement.

The Western BCA also began offering online registration to its members by using the BCA Pool League online registration system. Western BCA members loved the ability to register online rather than printing forms, writing the information, buying stamps and traveling to the post office. It also reduced the time required of the Western BCA to process and verify entries. It was a huge improvement.

The BCA Pool League also helped promote the events by listing the Western BCA events on its Upcoming Events webpage, sending targeted email campaigns to players in the region and creating social media posts.

The result? Although everyone expected an initial decline in participation due to the sweeping changes, the opposite happened. Participation increased and feedback from the players revealed that they generally loved the improvements.

The Western BCA has since taken the extra step of mandating that all of its leagues use the FargoRate League Management System (LMS) so that league data goes into FargoRate and all Western BCA members have more accurate ratings. All of the leagues eventually embraced LMS and each Western BCA event seems to be better than the last.

The Western BCA is a model that serves as a shining example to other organizations. It is well-managed, provides its members with two terrific events each year and by affiliating with the BCA Pool League it provides its players with tools and benefits that would be nearly impossible to develop on its own. The relationship is a true win-win-win for the players, the Western BCA and the BCA Pool League.

## REGIONAL POOL TOURS

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Regional and local pool tours can also join the BCA Pool League and enjoy many benefits. This involves the tour requiring all players who are not already BCA Pool League members, to join the BCA Pool League.

### WHAT IS A REGIONAL POOL TOUR?

A regional or local pool tour is a series of tournaments under the control of a Tour Director. Typically, these tournaments are one or two-day events which are held on weekends and players earn points from each tournament over the course of the season. Some examples of tours include the New England 9-Ball Series, Action Pool Tour, Mezz West State Tour, Tri-State Tour and many others.

### TOUR BENEFITS

When a tour affiliates with the BCA Pool League, it is treated as a singles league. All of the tours' members and Tour Directors receive the normal membership benefits as well as a few special tour benefits.

#### Tour Members Become Eligible for BCA Pool League World Championships

Because tour members become dual members of the BCA Pool League, they have the opportunity to become eligible for singles and doubles divisions of the BCA Pool League World Championships in Las Vegas. Note that tour members are not eligible for team divisions. Becoming eligible usually entails players being required to compete in at least four (4) tour events during the season. However, because many tours are structured differently, this number is jointly set by the Tour Director and BCA Pool League.

#### Free Vegas Entries

The BCA Pool League provides tours with free entries into singles and/or scotch doubles events at the BCA Pool League World Championships in Las Vegas. The number of free entries given depends on the total number of tour members throughout the year.

#### Added Money & Support for Tour Championship Events

The BCA Pool League provides added money for end-of-season tour championship events. The amount of added money depends on the total number of tour members throughout the year.

## CASE STUDY: THE NEW ENGLAND 9-BALL SERIES

The New England 9-Ball Series is a regional pool tour that operates in the upper Northeast of the U.S. and holds approximately 20-25 tournaments per year, including an end-of-season tour championship.

In 2019, the Tour Director saw the value in affiliating with the BCA Pool League. He abandoned the old and subjective A-B-C rating system in favor of FargoRate but also wanted to offer his players something that the tour could not produce on its own – a massive event in Las Vegas for its players.

The New England 9-Ball Series joined the BCA Pool League umbrella. It requires all participants who are not already BCA Pool League members, to join the BCA Pool League when they compete in a tour event. All the tour players become BCA Pool League members and receive all of the normal membership benefits including eligibility to compete in the BCA Pool League World Championships in Las Vegas.

As additional benefits, the BCA Pool League also provides free entries into the BCA Pool League World Championships and added money for its end-of-season tour championship; the levels of which are dependent on the total number of tour members throughout the year.

The New England 9-Ball Series serves as a terrific example to other regional and local pool tours. It is well-managed, provides its members with numerous events each year and by affiliating with the BCA Pool League, it provides its players with benefits that would be nearly impossible to offer on its own. The relationship is a true win-win-win for the players, the New England 9-Ball Series and the BCA Pool League.

## FREE VEGAS ENTRIES PROGRAM

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The BCA Pool League World Championships in Las Vegas is one of the most breathtaking events you will ever see. As part of our commitment to our affiliate organizations and regional tours, we provide free entries into the Las Vegas event when certain criteria are met.

### WHO CAN EARN FREE ENTRIES?

Affiliate league organizations, affiliated regional tours and those who are eligible for STAMP support may additionally be given free entries into the BCA Pool League World Championships based on the size of the organization and its events.

### CRITERIA & REQUIREMENTS

Below are the criteria and requirements for the Free Vegas Entries Program.

- The number and types of free entries must be approved by the BCA Pool League in advance.
- Free entries are awarded to the winning teams or players only.
- Free entries must be used for the stated BCA Pool League World Championship event and may not be deferred to a future event.
- For a free team entry, only one player from the winning team lineup may be replaced. For example, for a 5-player team, a minimum of 4 players from the winning team must compete at the BCA Pool League World Championships in Las Vegas.
- Free entries are not transferrable to any other player or team.
- Free entries are not redeemable for cash or any other consideration.

Free entry requests should be submitted to [bcapl@playcsipool.com](mailto:bcapl@playcsipool.com).

## LEAGUE STRUCTURE

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Pool leagues provide people an opportunity to compete, network, socialize and have fun with friends, family, coworkers and even strangers. Below is the structure of a typical pool league.

### THE LEAGUE

A league is comprised of one or more divisions under the control of a single League Operator. For example, a league may consist of a Monday night 8-ball division, a Tuesday night 9-ball division, a Wednesday 10-ball division, a Thursday scotch doubles division or any combination of nights, locations, games or skill levels.

### DIVISIONS

A division is a collection of teams (usually 6-16 teams) that compete against each other over the course of a set schedule. A division normally plays one night per week for a specified number of weeks. The League Operator has the flexibility to offer different types of divisions to suit local demand. Different divisions may offer different games, team sizes, skill levels or fees.

#### Traveling Divisions

Traveling divisions are those in which matches are played in more than one venue.

#### In-House Divisions

In-house divisions are those in which all matches are played in the same venue.

#### Doubles Divisions

Doubles divisions are those that have 2-player teams competing in a doubles or scotch doubles format. Doubles divisions qualify your players for singles and scotch doubles divisions at the BCA Pool League World Championships. Doubles divisions do not qualify your players to form teams at the BCA Pool League World Championships. However, they may act as "substitutes" for teams from other team divisions of your league.

#### Singles Divisions

Singles divisions are those in which there are no teams and all matches are head-to-head between two players. Singles divisions qualify your players for singles and scotch doubles divisions at the BCA Pool League World Championships but not to form teams. However, they may act as "substitutes" for teams from other team divisions of your league.

### TEAMS

A team is a group of people, usually friends, family or coworkers, who enjoy regular and fun pool competition in a social setting. Teams can come from local businesses, churches, lodges, colleges, neighborhood clubhouses, recreational centers, etc. **The most successful leagues have teams that consist of at least five (5) players** but other team sizes may be used.

## Team Captain

All teams should have a Team Captain who is responsible for organizing and managing the team. The Team Captain is the leader of the team and is responsible for many important tasks such as distributing information to teammates, ensuring the team arrives on time, ensuring accurate scorekeeping, collecting league fees and submitting fees and paperwork to the League Operator.

## THE LEAGUE OPERATOR

The League Operator is an experienced administrator who owns the league and has full authority to make league decisions. He or she promotes the league, recruits members, creates schedules, determines weekly fees, enforces rules, resolves problems, and much more. As the league grows, it is common for the League Operator to hire assistants who are sometimes called Division Representatives.

### Ethics

A League Operator's actions can affect the reputation of the entire BCA Pool League. Therefore, League Operators should always:

- Conduct their leagues in a fair and honest manner
- Treat all players, leagues, and the public with dignity, respect, and courtesy
- Refrain from conduct that inhibits the expansion of the BCA Pool League, reflects poorly upon the sport, adversely affects other BCA Pool Leagues or harms the reputation of the BCA Pool League

### Falsifying Data

Falsifying league data is a serious offense that can affect team standings, individual standings, prizes, ratings, and more. The BCA Pool League has a zero-tolerance policy for intentionally falsifying data. Some examples of falsifying data include but are not limited to:

- Intentionally recording incorrect scores
- Intentionally recording scores under the wrong player
- Intentionally recording scores under another name and/or rating

Anyone, including League Operators, found to have intentionally falsified league data will be immediately and permanently banned from the BCA Pool League and CueSports International without refund or compensation of any kind. In short, don't do this.

### Manipulating Data

Manipulating data is closely related to falsifying data with a few subtle differences. Some examples of manipulating data include but are not limited to:

- Intentionally losing games (also called sandbagging)
- Intentionally not playing to your true ability



Anyone, including League Operators, found to have intentionally manipulated league data will face the following consequences:

- *1st Offense* – Banned from the BCA Pool League for a period of at least one (1) year without refund or compensation of any kind. Any awards or prizes won to that point are forfeited.
- *2nd Offense* – Banned indefinitely from the BCA Pool League and CueSports International without refund or compensation of any kind.

## LOCAL LEAGUE BYLAWS

Not all regions are the same. Although we offer [Suggested Policies](#), the League Operator has autonomy to set rules and regulations to best suit local conditions. Examples include but are not limited to weekly league fees, team sizes, team rating limits, how playoffs are handled, etc. The League Operator should include these and other details in the local league bylaws and make them available to all players.

Most matters can and should be handled at the local level by the League Operator or Division Representative. However, if additional assistance is needed, we are here to help. Our office hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm Pacific Time (major holidays excluded).

Contact us by any of the following ways:

Phone: 866-USA-POOL or 702-719-7665

Email: [bcapl@playcsipool.com](mailto:bcapl@playcsipool.com)

Online: [www.playcsipool.com/contact](http://www.playcsipool.com/contact)

Fax: 702-307-1609

# BCA POOL LEAGUE POLICIES

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Being part of the BCA Pool League is very simple and there are only a few guidelines to follow.

## MEMBERSHIP PERIOD

Memberships operate on a calendar year basis regardless of what schedule you decide to operate your league. Memberships begin when they are received by the BCA Pool League and expire on December 31 of the same year.

## DEPOSIT & MINIMUM LEAGUE SIZE

BCA Pool Leagues must consist of at least 30 players who are not already BCA Pool League members. Leagues that have fewer players may be allowed on a conditional basis but will still be required to pay a BCA Pool League membership fee equal to the minimum of 30 players.

New leagues, those that were not members the previous year, must submit a deposit equal to the membership fees of 30 players. This deposit will be applied toward the league's membership fees in that same year. If the league fails to get started or does not reach the minimum 30 players in that same calendar year, the deposit is forfeited.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

As a League Operator, your cost is essentially zero. There are no expensive franchise or license fees and the BCA Pool League does not receive any of the weekly local league fees. The only cost is a small annual membership fee per player. For the current membership fee, please see the BCA Pool League Membership Application which can be downloaded at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

Players are only required to pay one BCA Pool League membership fee per league year regardless of how many leagues they play in. However, it is your responsibility as a League Operator to determine who is or is not already a BCA Pool League member by using our membership lookup tool at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

Membership fees must be submitted within the first four (4) weeks of play for all members of the league who play more than one (1) match during the league year. Those who play only one (1) match are assumed to be one-time substitutes and are not required to become BCA Pool League members.

As the League Operator, you are responsible for submitting all membership fees in a timely manner even if you haven't collected them from your players. Therefore, we highly recommend that you follow the [Suggested League Policies](#) as it relates to the collection of membership fees. **TIP:** It is much more convenient and efficient to pay player membership fees from the general league fund rather than collecting them separately from each player.

Any overpayment of membership fees is applied as credit for the following calendar year. If the league does not rejoin the following year, the overpayment is forfeited.

**WARNING:** Unfortunately, there have been unethical League Operators in the past who have used the “substitute policy” to avoid paying membership fees. For example, the League Operator may ask Bob to substitute in the league from time to time when needed. Bob is willing to play when needed but he doesn’t want to commit to playing every week and he doesn’t want to pay a membership fee. To get around this, the League Operator enters Bob’s scores under a different name each time he plays.

This is an example of falsifying data and can lead to you being banned from the BCA Pool League and possibly having your league deemed illegitimate. There are tools in place to identify when this may be happening so please, don’t do it. **Your integrity is worth more than a few dollars.**

## MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS

To ensure our records stay up to date and all players receive membership benefits, leagues are required to submit the following each and every month:

### Membership Updates

All leagues must submit membership updates during the first week of each month using the Monthly Membership Update form which can be found at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com). This provides us with the information and membership fees of all new players that joined your league during the previous month. Without this, new members will not be able to receive membership benefits and existing members may be denied benefits until these updates are received.

### League Stats

Leagues that do not use LMS must submit monthly league stats and standings via email, fax or postal mail. At a minimum, league stats must show dates, full legal player names, team names, wins, losses and weeks played. **Leagues that use LMS are not required to submit monthly league stats.**

## PROTECTION OF NIGHT OR REGION

The BCA Pool League is a membership organization for leagues anywhere and everywhere. We don’t sell expensive franchises or licenses for tens of thousands of dollars and your cost as a League Operator is essentially zero. Therefore, **you should not expect to be the only BCA Pool League in your region.**

However, **we may protect your region or nights of play when deemed appropriate.** Below are some of the factors we consider if you request protection.

- Number of consecutive years as a member of the BCA Pool League
- Is your league also a member of another organization (dual membership)?
- Does your league use the FargoRate League Management System (LMS)?
- Population of the area vs. the number of players in your league
- Has the size of your league increased or decreased over time?
- Payment and conduct history
- Other competing leagues in the area

## DUAL MEMBERSHIP

The BCA Pool League operates on a philosophy of inclusion rather than exclusion. We generally accept all leagues, even those affiliated with other organizations, as long as it does not create a conflict of interest. However, we reserve the right to refuse membership to any league for any reason or no reason at all.

## FARGORATE

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FargoRate has replaced other methods of rating pool players and has quickly become the most trusted and universally accepted rating system in existence. Other classifications such as Open-Advanced-Master, A-B-C, 1-2-3, etc. are a thing of the past. The days of inconsistent ratings, biased subjective judgement, rating committees, and difficult score keeping are over.

### PROBLEMS WITH OTHER RATING SYSTEMS

Most other rating systems are easily manipulated and such manipulation is a serious problem. A small number of unscrupulous players may begin trying to cheat the system. Other players hear about this and believe they have to do the same to stay competitive. It soon becomes an inherent part of the league where “gaming” the system is just as important as playing pool.

Many of those who make it to the championship events using these older systems are often those most adept at “managing” their ratings. For example, some rating systems depend heavily on inning counts. Any player capable of running out against a weaker opponent is also capable of bunting balls around for a few innings like a cat plays with a mouse, padding the inning count while still winning the game. Sound familiar?

### WHAT IS FARGORATE?

High jumpers measure performance with height. Swimmers measure performance with time. Javelin throwers measure performance with distance. Pool players however, have no absolute measurement of performance. Skill at pool, like skill at chess, must be based on relative performance (i.e. who beats whom or how you compare against other players).

FargoRate rates pool players worldwide on the same scale based on games won and lost against opponents of known rating. Games are added to the FargoRate database every day and a new global optimization, coupling everyone together around the world, is performed each and every day.

The result is a universal system that is just as useful for rating players in a small-town league as it is for rating players in a regional tournament series as it is for rating world-class professionals. Unlike other systems, where a 5 in Dallas, Texas is usually not the same as a 5 in Waterloo, Iowa, all players know exactly how they compare relative to the others around the world.

To learn more about FargoRate, how it works, why it works and for answers to many of the most common questions, visit [www.fargorate.com](http://www.fargorate.com).

### FARGORATE FOR YOUR LEAGUE

Most pool players want a Fargo rating. They take pride in their rating, want to measure their improvement and know how they compare to the rest of the world. One of the best ways to provide that is to use the FargoRate League Management System (LMS) so your league’s data constantly flows into FargoRate and your players always have accurate and up-to-date ratings. FargoRate can be used four (4) ways in your league.

1

**Use FargoRate to set maximum team ratings.** When the same teams win every session, it can cause others to lose interest and quit the league. Use FargoRate to set maximum team ratings to spread the top talent across more teams.

2

**Use FargoRate to handicap matches.** If you don't want to prevent the best players from joining together, you can use FargoRate to handicap matches to give lower-skilled teams an opportunity to be more competitive.

3

**Use FargoRate to set maximum team ratings and handicap matches.** The most successful leagues do both to spread the top talent across teams and keep all matches as competitive as possible. This is proven to be great for league growth and excitement.

4

**Allow league data to flow into FargoRate.** Even if you don't want to set team limits or handicap matches, you can and should use LMS to report your league's data to FargoRate so your players always have accurate and up-to-date ratings.

## KEEP YOUR SCORING SYSTEM

One of the best aspects of using FargoRate to handicap your league's matches is that you can usually keep your existing scoring system. The most common scoring systems used are the 10-Point, 17-Point and 1-Point (Win/Loss) systems. FargoRate works well with all of these so you can continue to score matches the same way and let FargoRate determine the appropriate handicaps behind the scenes using the FargoRate League Handicap Calculator which can be found at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

### 10-Point Scoring System

The 10-point scoring system is one of the most common 8-ball scoring methods used in pool leagues. Each person earns one (1) point for each of their balls pocketed (i.e. solids or stripes) and three (3) points for the 8-ball. The winner of each game earns 10 points and the opponent earns a maximum of seven (7) points. For a list of advantages and disadvantages of this system, see the section titled [Popular League Scoring Systems](#).

### 17-Point Scoring System

The 17-point scoring system is a common 8-ball scoring method used in pool leagues. The winner of each game earns 10 points plus one (1) point for each ball the opponent has remaining on the table. The loser of each game earns one (1) point for each ball pocketed (i.e. solids or stripes) for a maximum of seven (7) points. The combined score from both players always adds up to 17. For a list of advantages and disadvantages of this system, see the section titled [Popular League Scoring Systems](#).

### 1-Point Scoring System (Win/Loss)

The 1-point scoring system, also known as the win/loss system, is one of the most common scoring methods used in pool leagues. Players earn one (1) point for winning each game and the loser gets zero (0). For a list of advantages and disadvantages of this system, see the section titled [Popular League Scoring Systems](#).

### A Better Way Using FargoRate

By using FargoRate for handicapping, you can use any of these scoring methods while keeping the advantages and eliminating the disadvantages. For a complete explanation of how FargoRate improves these scoring methods, visit the following links:

- How FargoRate Improves the 10-Point Scoring System  
[www.playcsipool.com/csinews/how-fargorate-improves-the-10-point-scoring-system](http://www.playcsipool.com/csinews/how-fargorate-improves-the-10-point-scoring-system)
- How FargoRate Improves the 17-Point Scoring System  
[www.playcsipool.com/csinews/how-fargorate-improves-the-17-point-system](http://www.playcsipool.com/csinews/how-fargorate-improves-the-17-point-system)
- How FargoRate Improves the 1-Point Scoring System  
[www.playcsipool.com/csinews/how-fargorate-improves-the-1-point-scoring-system-for-pool-leagues](http://www.playcsipool.com/csinews/how-fargorate-improves-the-1-point-scoring-system-for-pool-leagues)

### FargoRate League Handicap Calculator

The below screenshots are examples of the FargoRate BCA Pool League Handicap Calculator for all three scoring systems for 5-player teams. The calculator can be found at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

#### 10-pt Scoring Handicapping

**FargoRate**  
BCAPL League Calculator

Enter the FargoRatings for each team's players and choose the point system used by your league.

10 POINTS

Number of games a player plays per round (or per match if handicapping matches):  
1

Team One Players	Team Two Players
432	689
375	503
546	654
589	592
628	602

Team One Points: 11 per round  
Team Two Points: 0 per round

ADD MORE PLAYERS | CALCULATE

#### 17-pt Scoring Handicapping

**FargoRate**  
BCAPL League Calculator

Enter the FargoRatings for each team's players and choose the point system used by your league.

17 POINTS

Number of games a player plays per round (or per match if handicapping matches):  
1

Team One Players	Team Two Players
432	689
375	503
546	654
589	592
628	602

Team One Points: 17 per round  
Team Two Points: 0 per round

ADD MORE PLAYERS | CALCULATE

#### 1-pt Scoring Handicapping

**FargoRate**  
BCAPL League Calculator

Enter the FargoRatings for each team's players and choose the point system used by your league.

1 POINTS

Number of games a player plays per round (or per match if handicapping matches):  
1

Team One Players	Team Two Players
432	689
375	503
546	654
589	592
628	602

Team One Points: 1 per round  
Team Two Points: 0 per round

ADD MORE PLAYERS | CALCULATE

## ONLINE LEAGUE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

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Imagine a world in which all pool players everywhere are connected by a single, universally accepted rating system. Realizing that vision requires a new kind of tool for league management that is robust, easy to use, and just as well-suited for a small, single division league as it is for a large league with a hundred divisions. FargoRate is that rating system and LMS is that tool. Best of all, **LMS is free for all BCA Pool Leagues.**

### LMS FEATURES & BENEFITS

#### League Data Flows into FargoRate

LMS is the **only league management system in the world integrated with FargoRate.** Your league's data will flow from LMS directly into FargoRate to provide your players with updated ratings every day. Additionally, Fargo ratings flow back into LMS for optional easy-to-use league handicapping.

#### Online League Stats & Management

LMS is an online platform that allows you to manage your league from any smartphone, tablet or computer. There is no need to rush home or make your players wait to solve issues or answer questions. You can publish schedules, scores and online league standings from anywhere.

#### Automatic Schedule Generator

Creating a complex league schedule can be one of your most complicated tasks. Factors such as the number of teams, weeks, locations, available tables, teams at each location, holidays, and weather issues can make scheduling an absolute nightmare. With LMS, simply enter the information and the system does the rest.

#### Copy Previous Divisions

New sessions of the same division often have the same division settings and many of the same teams and players. With LMS, save time by copying the entire division and then just edit the changes.

#### Supports Numerous Formats

Developed with input from League Operators around the world, LMS supports a wide variety of games, formats, scoring and handicapping methods. The result is a league management system that works for you.

#### Membership Tracking & Reports

There is no need to keep a separate report or spreadsheet of your players. With LMS, you can easily retrieve a list of your players complete with weeks played, Fargo ratings, who has paid weekly and membership fees and much more.



## LMS LEAGUE OPERATOR SUPPORT

Using new software can be intimidating. Don't worry...you're not alone and we won't just give you an email address for help. Although LMS is very user friendly, if you need additional help, a real person is ready to help you every step of the way by phone or email...whichever you prefer.

### Email Support

[LMSsupport@playcsipool.com](mailto:LMSsupport@playcsipool.com)

### Phone Support

866-USA-POOL (select the option for LMS support)

## HOW TO GET STARTED WITH LMS

To get started with LMS, follow these easy steps.



**Submit Your BCA Pool League Membership Application.** LMS is free for BCA Pool Leagues so join today and get a free LMS account along with all the other benefits of membership.



**LMS Welcome Email.** Once your membership application is approved, you will receive a welcome email with LMS setup instructions.



**Contact Us for Support.** As stated earlier, we are here for you. If you have any issues along the way, contact us via email or phone.

# MANAGING YOUR LEAGUE SHOULDN'T REQUIRE A MATHEMATICIAN.

$$\left[ \frac{(\# \text{ OF LOCATIONS}) \div (\# \text{ OF TABLES PER LOCATION})}{(\# \text{ OF TEAMS}) \div (\# \text{ OF TEAMS PER LOCATION})} \right] \pm (\text{HOLIDAYS})$$

(# OF DIVISIONS)

FARGO 9 BALL TEAMS  
3 TEAMS WEDNESDAY

FARGO 8 BALL TEAMS  
4 TEAMS TUESDAY  
2 TEAMS THURSDAY

FARGO BILLIARDS  
6X TABLES TUESDAY  
4 X TABLES ON WEDNESDAY  
6X TABLES THURSDAY

**There is a better way to manage your pool league.** The all-new LMS (League Management System), developed by FargoRate® is the ultimate tool for making pool league management easier and more efficient. Developed with input from League Operators across the globe, LMS saves you time and money so you can focus on what matters most – growing your league.



P O O L L E A G U E M A N A G E M E N T M A D E E A S Y

[www.FargoRate.com/LMS](http://www.FargoRate.com/LMS)

## LEAGUE FORMATS

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As stated previously, you are free to use any format best suited for your particular area. However, here are a few of the most popular formats used by our member leagues.

### POPULAR LEAGUE FORMATS

#### Round Robin

A round robin is a format in which each team member plays at least one game against every member of the opposing team.

##### *Advantages*

- **More equitable and fair (in theory).** Because everyone plays everyone, the element of luck over the course of the session is generally reduced.
- **Everyone plays the same number of games.** In other formats, lower-rated players sometimes only get to play 2-3 games. In the round robin format, they play the same number of games as everyone else.
- **Greater team camaraderie.** Because all players are needed for every round of play, all team members remain together throughout the night rather than some of them leaving early. This creates a better sense of camaraderie among teammates.
- **Better for the venue.** Pool rooms and bars benefit from pool leagues because it brings people into the establishment. The round robin format keeps people in the venue longer and therefore, it is usually better for the venue.
- **Consistent with BCA Pool League events.** BCA Pool League events, including the BCA Pool League World Championships, utilize the round robin format. Consistency between your league and the events your players may compete in enables them to be better prepared.

##### *Disadvantages*

- **Player lineup is more complicated.** The order of the lineup for one team, usually the visiting team, changes in each round. Therefore, determining who plays next is slightly more complicated.
- **Harder to establish a rhythm.** Some players believe that because they only play one or two games at a time, it's more difficult to establish a rhythm and get comfortable at the table.

#### Head-to-Head (Match Play)

In this format, there are a number of head-to-head sets (matches) between two players.

##### *Advantages*

- **Player lineup is less complicated.** The same two players compete in a set consisting of several back-to-back games so the more complicated alternating lineup is not present.
- **Easier to establish rhythm.** Because each person plays several back-to-back games as part of a set, some players believe it's easier to establish a rhythm and get comfortable at the table.

### Disadvantages

- **Player match-ups can play a larger role in determining which team wins.** Deciding who should play whom often has a big impact on which teams wins. The strategy of deciding matchups, versus just playing your best pool, begins to become a critical element of the league.
- **Players may not be treated equally.** In head-to-head formats, the number of games played in a set often depends on the skill level of the players. High-rated players often get to play more games than lower-rated players.
- **Less team camaraderie.** Once a set is over, those two players won't play again and are free to leave. Often by the end of the night, most of the teammates are gone and the team atmosphere and camaraderie are eroded.
- **Less desirable for the venue.** Pool rooms and bars benefit from people being in the venue. Because players may leave early, it is not as beneficial for the venue.
- **Not consistent with BCA Pool League events.** BCA Pool League events do not use a head-to-head format so your players will be less prepared than those who use a round robin format.

### Trios

This is a 3-player team format that provides alternating rounds of 8-ball, 9-ball & 10-ball in singles and scotch doubles competition.

#### Advantages

- **It's different.** This is a unique format that is not promoted by other league organizations. The mix of games, singles and doubles keeps things fun and interesting throughout league night.
- **Everyone plays the same number of games.** Lower-rated players sometimes only get to play 2-3 games in other formats but in Trios, they play the same number of games as everyone else.
- **Greater team camaraderie.** Because all players are needed for every round of play, all team members remain together throughout the night. This creates a better team atmosphere.
- **Better for the venue.** Pool rooms and bars benefit from people being in the venue. This format keeps more people at league longer and is more beneficial for the venue.

#### Disadvantages

- **Not consistent with BCA Pool League events.** BCA Pool League events do not use the Trios format. Therefore, your players may be slightly less prepared than those who use a round robin format.

## POPULAR LEAGUE SCORING SYSTEMS

### 10-Point Scoring System

The 10-point scoring system is one of the most common 8-ball scoring methods used in pool leagues. Each person earns one (1) point for each of their balls pocketed (i.e. solids or stripes) and three (3) points for the 8-ball. The winner of each game earns 10 points and the opponent earns a maximum of seven (7) points.

### Advantages

- **Scoring is simple.** At the end of each game, the score is quickly determined by the number of balls left on the table. There is no need to track innings, safeties or anything else during the game.
- **Players earn more points for their teams.** Players have the ability to earn points for their teams even when they lose games. It's not much fun to play well and make several balls only to get a score of zero (0). With the 10-point system, players often get some credit even when they lose.

### Disadvantages

- **Averages often don't accurately reflect skill level.** Players earn an "average" which is often used for handicapping. However, if a person plays higher-skilled players, his or her average will tend to be lower. If that same person plays lower-skilled players, the average will tend to be higher.
- **Averages across leagues and regions are not comparable.** A person with a 7.3 average in a Platinum division in New York is probably not the same skill level as a person with a 7.3 average in a Bronze division in Helena, Montana.
- **Incentive to win the game can be diminished.** Situations sometimes occur in which a player's incentive to win the game is replaced with an incentive to just make a few balls.

## 17-Point Scoring System

The 17-point scoring system is a common 8-ball scoring method used in pool leagues. The winner of each game earns 10 points plus one (1) point for each ball the opponent has remaining on the table. The loser of each game earns one (1) point for each ball pocketed (i.e. solids or stripes) for a maximum of seven (7) points. The combined score from both players always adds up to 17.

### Advantages

- **Scoring is simple.** At the end of each game, the score is quickly determined by the balls left on the table. There is no need to track innings, safeties or anything else during the game.
- **Players earn more points for their teams.** Players often earn points for their team even when they lose games. It's not much fun to play well and make several balls only to get a score of zero (0). With the 17-point system, players often get some credit even when they lose.

### Disadvantages

- **Averages don't accurately reflect skill level.** Players earn an "average" which is often used for handicapping. However, if a person plays higher-skilled players, his or her average will tend to be lower. If that same person plays lower-skilled players, the average will tend to be higher.
- **Averages across leagues and regions are not comparable.** A person with an 11.4 average in a Platinum division in Phoenix, Arizona is likely not the same skill level as someone with an 11.4 average in a Bronze division in Provo, Utah.
- **Incentive to win the game can be diminished.** Finally, situations sometimes occur in which a player's incentive to win the game is replaced with an incentive to just make a few balls.

## 1-Point Scoring System

The 1-point scoring system, also known as the win/loss system, is one of the most common scoring methods used in pool leagues. Players earn one (1) point for winning each game and the loser gets zero (0).

### Advantages

- **Scoring is simple.** The score of each game is determined simply by who won and lost. There is no need to track balls, innings, safeties or anything else during or after a game.
- **There is usually an incentive to win the game.** Because wins are one (1) point and losses are zero (0), there is usually a strong incentive to win the game.

### Disadvantages

- **Players earn no points when they lose the game.** No points are earned in a loss. Even when players perform well and make several balls, they get zero (0) points if they lose which can be discouraging.
- **Averages don't accurately reflect skill level.** Players earn an "average" which is often used for handicapping. However, if a person plays higher-skilled players, his or her average will tend to be lower. If that same person plays lower-skilled players, the average will tend to be higher.
- **Averages across leagues and regions are not comparable.** A person with a 3.5 average in a Platinum division in Portland, Oregon is likely not the same skill level as someone with a 3.5 average in a Silver division in Dodge City, Kansas.

## POPULAR LEAGUE HANDICAPPING METHODS

As the League Operator, you are free to decide the structure and format of your league, including whether the league will utilize handicapping. If you decide to handicap league matches, below are the most popular ways to do so.

### FargoRate Handicapping

More and more leagues are switching from older methods of handicapping to FargoRate. Every league that has done so has reported that it has dramatically increased the competitiveness of the league which allows the league to grow and prosper.

#### Advantages

- **More accurate.** Regardless of how well other methods may have worked in the past, we assure you that FargoRate is better. We say that with total confidence.

#### Disadvantages

- **None.** Seriously...there are no disadvantages other than you may have to let go of the past.

### Average Handicapping

Average handicapping is one of the most used methods of the past. It works relatively well within a single division but it totally breaks down outside of the division.

### *Advantages*

- **It's easy to calculate & understand.** Calculating an average (total points / games) is simple and easy to understand.

### *Disadvantages*

- **Less accurate.** Players earn an "average" which is used for handicapping. However, if a person plays higher-skilled players, his or her average will tend to be lower. If the same person plays lower-skilled players, his or her average will tend to be higher.

## BRAND & LOGO USE

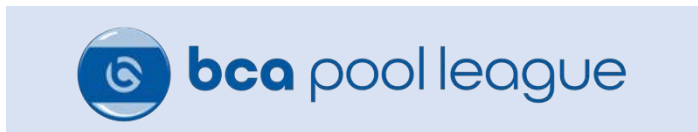
It is very important that our brand, name, logos and marks be used and referenced correctly. As a member, it's in your best interest that the BCA Pool League brand and logo be used correctly and consistently.

### LOGO GUIDELINES

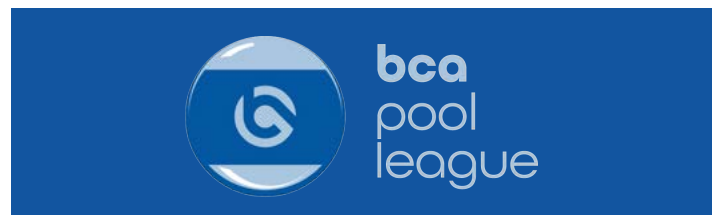
The BCA Pool League logos should be used to promote your league as being a proud member of the BCA Pool League. It should be used on your league's website, social media pages, score sheets, league folders, flyers, league trophies, league shirts, etc.

Several versions of the logo are available to work best for different sizes and backgrounds. These versions are shown below and can be downloaded at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

#### LIGHT BACKGROUNDS



#### DARK BACKGROUNDS



#### COLOR



#### BLACK & WHITE





The BCA Pool League logos may not be modified or combined with any other image or text without the written consent of the BCA Pool League. This includes but is not limited to:

- changing colors
- adding text or images in front or behind the logo
- adding an outline
- distorting the shape or orientation
- any other such modifications

## NAME GUIDELINES

As stated in the [History](#) section, the BCA Pool League is not affiliated with the Billiard Congress of America (BCA). Therefore, your league should never be referenced as being part of the BCA. Below are just a few examples of correct and incorrect ways to name your league and reference the BCA Pool League.

### *League Names*

-  Southern Nevada BCA **INCORRECT**
-  Southern Nevada BCAPL **CORRECT**
-  Southern Nevada BCA Pool League **CORRECT**

### *Event Names*

-  BCA World Championships **INCORRECT**
-  BCA Pool League World Championships **CORRECT**

# SUGGESTED LEAGUE POLICIES

Although you are free to decide all aspects of your league’s structure, we offer a few suggested policies that have proven to help maintain a well-functioning league and lead to growth.

## Target Market

The type of player you attract is the #1 determinant for the type of league you will have. Think about the type of players you want in your league and set your structure and policies for them only. If you find yourself frustrated with a league that doesn’t grow and players who don’t ever seem to be happy with anything, it’s likely that your structure and policies attract that type of player and drive others away.

## Team Sizes

Although you may utilize other team sizes, we highly recommend that you structure your league for 5-player teams. The most successful leagues use 5-player teams.

It is also recommended that the total number of people allowed on each team roster be limited as shown in the table below. This promotes team stability rather than a carousel of uncommitted teammates.

### Total Roster Size Recommendation

Nightly Team Size	Maximum Roster Size
3-player	5 players
4-player	7 players
5-player	8 players

## Team Skill Levels

The below skill level problems tend to limit the size and attractiveness of pool leagues.

- The best players form teams together
- The same players and teams win every session
- The same teams finish at the bottom every session

When these problems exist, a significant portion of your members may not be competitive, the league may not be as fun and they may begin to lose interest. Over time, this leads to no growth or players quitting the league. To prevent that, we recommend that you establish FargoRate limits for teams and also consider offering different divisions for different skill levels. Below are recommendations which are consistent with the team skill levels at the BCA Pool League World Championships.

GOLD DIVISION	
Team Size	Rating Limit
3-player	1,650
4-player	2,200
5-player	2,750

SILVER DIVISION	
Team Size	Rating Limit
3-player	1,500
4-player	2,000
5-player	2,500

BRONZE DIVISION	
Team Size	Rating Limit
3-player	1,350
4-player	1,800
5-player	2,250

## Weekly & Membership Fee Collection

One of the biggest mistakes that you can make is to be too relaxed in the collection of weekly league fees and membership fees. Without a clear policy in place, you will waste a lot of time and effort trying to collect fees. Therefore, we suggest having one or more of the following policies in place.

1. **Pay your players' membership fees from the league fund.** Weekly league fees typically go into a league fund which is used for various things such as awards, prizes, League Operator compensation, etc. **Membership fees can easily be paid from the league fund.** This is convenient for the players and the League Operator because no time or effort is wasted collecting membership fees.
2. **Require all players to pay their membership fee on their 2<sup>nd</sup> week of play.** If membership fees are not paid from the league fund, require all players to pay their membership fee on their 2<sup>nd</sup> week of play or their matches will be scored as forfeits.
3. **Award bonus points for teams who have no outstanding fees.** Teams don't want to fall behind because other teams are getting bonus points while they aren't. This incentivizes teams to pay all fees on time and will reduce your collection efforts.

## Format(s), Scoring & Handicapping

All of the formats, scoring and handicapping methods mentioned in the [League Formats](#) section, are supported in LMS. Other formats are acceptable but not recommended because they may not be supported in LMS or the data may not flow into FargoRate.

Additional scoring options may be used for individual standings and awards. Local league bylaws shall dictate their use.

- BR (Break & Run) – A player wins the game by breaking and legally clearing all balls with the opponent not having a turn at the table.
- TR (Table Run) – The non-breaking player wins the game by legally clearing all balls on the first turn at the table (minimum of 5 balls).
- WZ (Win-Zip) – Hold opponent to zero (0) points but does not meet the definition of a BR (Break & Run) or TR (Table Run).
- WF (Win by Forfeit)

## Ways to Prevent Intentional Losing (Sandbagging)

When players or teams intentionally lose games, it has a negative effect on the entire league. It can ruin the experience and unfairly affect the ratings of other players. Other players often quit when this happens.

It is easy to point the blame solely at those who are sandbagging. However, people respond to incentives. League Operators should always look inward and correct whatever league policies are causing players to intentionally lose. We suggest having one or more of the following policies in place to help prevent sandbagging.

1. **Offer awards/prizes for individual wins.** Awards such as prize money for each win can often provide enough incentive for players to do their best even when their team doesn't need them to.
2. **Offer additional points for margin of victory.** Awarding additional points to players or teams based on their margin of victory can provide incentive for them to always play their best.
3. **Provide an anonymous reporting system for possible sandbagging.** Giving players the ability to report sandbagging anonymously is a great way to give them confidence that they have a voice and is a great deterrent to those who may consider sandbagging.
4. **Have a zero-tolerance policy for sandbagging in your local league bylaws.** You should have a clear policy in your league bylaws regarding sandbagging. If you are convinced that a player is sandbagging, we suggest that you ban the player from your league for at least the remainder of the league year. Penalties for the team may also be considered. If you ban a player from your league, you must notify the BCA Pool League in writing immediately.

### Ways to Prevent Drop-Out Teams

Sometimes, when teams have a poor win/loss record and it's obvious they won't make the league playoffs, they may believe that they have nothing to play for and quit. When teams drop out before the session ends, it creates chaos. The league schedule can be disrupted, bye weeks may no longer be evenly distributed, the league prize fund may get reduced, etc. To help prevent drop-out teams, we suggest having one or more of the following policies in place.

1. **Do a wild card draw for the last playoff spot.** One common and effective method of keeping all teams engaged is to conduct a random draw for the final playoff spot of all teams who did not otherwise make the playoffs. Even a team with the worst record is unlikely to quit if it has a chance at making the playoffs through a wild card draw.
2. **Do a separate tournament for teams that don't make the playoffs.** Conduct a separate tournament for teams that did not make the playoffs and offer the winning team some sort of prize. Teams are unlikely to quit if they still have a chance at winning something.
3. **Offer awards for each win.** Although this is not the most effective method, awarding small prizes for each win is another way to keep teams engaged even if they are not eligible for the playoffs.

### Breaking Ties

League matches can sometimes end in a tie. Below are some suggested ways to break ties.

1. The team that wins the most games wins the match
2. The team that wins the most rounds wins the match
3. The team that wins the most sets wins the match
4. The team who wins the last game or set wins the match

### Scoring Bye Weeks

If a division has an odd number of teams and the proper number of weeks in the schedule, all teams could have the same number of byes. In this case, there may be no need to award points for bye weeks. However, if

some teams have more bye weeks than others, bye week scoring should be done to ensure fairness. One suggested method is to award the average points that the team has scored up to that point in the session for each bye week.

### Proof of Identity

All players should be able to provide proper identification (ID) upon request during league play.

### Local League Awards

Prizes can and should include travel and/or entry into the BCA Pool League World Championships, BCA Pool League state or regional events, trophies, plaques, banquets, cash, etc.

Regardless of what a few of the vocal minority of players in your region may say, the most successful leagues award travel and entry into the BCA Pool League World Championships in Las Vegas. Best of all, it's very easy to do. Take a look at this very simple example.

#### Example

Suppose you have a division with the following characteristics:

- 12 teams of 5 players each
- Weekly fees of \$10/player = \$50/team
- 16-week schedule

Total Funds Generated	\$9,600	$\$50/\text{team} \times 12 \text{ teams} \times 16 \text{ weeks}$
League Operator Comp.	(\$1,920)	$\$10/\text{team} \times 12 \text{ teams} \times 16 \text{ weeks}$
<b>Total Prize Fund</b>	<b>\$7,680</b>	
Team Entry Fee	\$500	
Team Airfare	\$2,000	$5 \text{ players} \times \$400/\text{player}$
Team Hotel Cost	\$1,100	$2 \text{ rooms} \times \$110/\text{night} \times 5 \text{ nights}$
<b>Total Trip Cost</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>	
Division Prizes / Awards	1st	Trip + \$1,580
	2nd	\$1,200
	3rd	\$800
	4th	\$500

This is a very simple example to illustrate that even a small league or division can easily generate enough funds to send a team to Las Vegas and have modest payouts. Winning a free trip to Las Vegas to represent your league is exciting to most players and teams will return session after session to compete for that trip. If your players are only interested in large payouts, you are probably attracting the wrong type of players with your league's structure and policies and growth in your league will be very difficult.

## League Communication

Communication with your players is essential for a successful league. Fortunately, today's technology will allow you to communicate effectively and efficiently without much effort or cost. Below are just a few suggestions.

### *Website*

Having a league website is a great way to communicate anything and everything in one place. There are many great user-friendly and inexpensive website building tools available, such as [Weebly](#), [Wix](#) and many others, and there is no need to have any web experience whatsoever.

### *Email*

Communicating with your players via email is a great way to push information to them in a non-intrusive manner. There are many good, user-friendly email platforms available such as [MailChimp](#), which is currently free for accounts with up to 2,000 contacts.

### *Facebook*

The power of Facebook is undeniable. Fortunately, Facebook makes it super easy to create business pages and groups.

We suggest creating a public [Facebook Page](#) for your league. This page should be viewable by anyone so players in your area can follow your league. It's a great recruiting and communication tool.

We also suggest that you consider creating a [Facebook Group](#) for league members only. Private groups are viewable only to the people you add to the group and it's an efficient way to quickly communicate with your players.

### *Phone*

It's good to be available to your players by phone. However, it only allows for one-on-one communication which is not very efficient. This should be for emergencies or immediate concerns only.

### *League Folders*

Leaving notes and other forms of communication in league folders (if league folders are used) is good. However, technology is making this a less effective method of communication and many players do not look at things placed in the folders.

## Game Rules

Although you are free to establish the game rules best suited for your league, BCA Pool League events (including the BCA Pool League World Championships) follow the Official Rules of CueSports International which can be found at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com). We encourage our member leagues to follow these rules for consistency and to eliminate confusion for members who play in BCA Pool League events.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

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The following BCA Pool League documents can be found at [www.playbcapool.com](http://www.playbcapool.com).

- Membership Application
- Monthly Membership Update
- STAMP Application
- League Score Sheets
- League Schedules
- Tournament Charts

## CONTACT US

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