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**MIDWEST POOLPLAYERS ASSOCIATION**

13514 Aldrich Ave South • Burnsville, MN 55337

Phone: 507-210-7558 • E-mail: [ctpool@aol.com](mailto:ctpool@aol.com)

# **2019-2020 LEAGUE OPERATOR MANUAL**

**The Midwest Poolplayers Association (MPA) sanctions pool leagues. Leagues and players that sanction for MPA are entitled to participate in various large pool tournaments throughout the season and they will also receive other benefits and incentives from sanctioning. MPA sanctioning is available to all levels of pool players who share the goal of building the sport of pocket billiards.**



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## General Information

### Eligibility

All pool leagues that play on a regular weekly basis are eligible to sanction MPA. Leagues can be comprised of men, women, or mixed league play. Levels of play can vary from beginner to a top master amateur player. Professional players (as defined by current pro rankings) are also eligible to participate in this association and the events sanctioned by the MPA, with a handicap offered to amateur players. Players participating in the sanctioned leagues must have played a minimum of one (1) week in an MPA-sanctioned league in order to be eligible for MPA-sanctioned tournaments, and must pay a \$10 annual sanction fee. League players are also eligible to play in ACS Nationals in Las Vegas, but must meet minimum criteria for weeks played as required by ACS. Players not participating in a structured league may opt to pay an “MPA Individual Player” sanctioning fee of \$20, and they will be eligible to participate in MPA sanctioned events. However, non-league players are not eligible for ACS Nationals.

Team eligibility for league play is governed by the league operator, not the MPA. Leagues can choose whatever is deemed appropriate for their situation. However, tournament eligibility for Teams are as follows: Teams will consist of at least five players, with a maximum of eight players on the roster. All players on a team need not be from the same MPA-sanctioned league. As long as the players meet eligibility requirements for sanctioning and ranking, they can play together on a team. All players must meet at least minimum eligibility requirements (as stated above). Exceptions to Team Eligibility may be reviewed by an MPA representative due to hardship cases and player availability. They will be reviewed on an individual basis and all decisions made will not set a precedent for future decisions.

### Tournaments

Because of the skill levels offered at the MPA-sanctioned tournaments, all players of all abilities are encouraged to participate and everyone has an opportunity to finish well in these events if they play to the best of their ability. All MPA-sanctioned events will be either divisionalized by ability or handicapped by ability. Larger events will have separate divisions for the different levels of player ability. Smaller events may be played in a handicap format in such a manner deemed fair by the tournament director so all teams participating are given a fair chance at the prize money offered. Individual player ratings and levels of ability will be reviewed first by the league operator, and then again by an official MPA representative. Players not currently rated on any lists must play in a division that is most represented of their ability.

MPA uses a handicap structure for the team events. We believe this allows any five players to be competitive in our team format. These five players need not be from the same league or charter. As long as we are able to establish each team player's ability, proper placement and handicap of the team is intact, allowing a fair and competitive structure.

Entry fees will be collected for these events for all participants and additional money will be added to the prize fund by the MPA. The money added will come from either the host location, the sanction fees that players paid, sponsors of the event, or a combination of these sources. Players participating in these events will compete for these prize funds, with a minimum of 25% of the field receiving prize money. During the MPA pool season, tens of thousands of dollars are added to the prize funds at these events, and all of this is made possible because of sanction fees collected.

Pool tables used at the MPA-sanctioned tournaments will be 7-foot tables, except as noted at certain tournament stops. In most cases, coins will not be used in these tables. Instead, a “green fee” will be collected along with the entry fee and the pool tables will be available for practice and play during the event for all players participating. This encourages more practice and play during the events, even when a match is not in progress.

### Rules of Play

Rules of play at tournament events will be the World Standardized Rules. Copies of these rules are available online and will also be made available at MPA-sanctioned events. They may or may not be the rules used in an MPA-sanctioned league. The MPA does not govern the rules used in individual leagues. The tournament director will outline the rules verbally before each tournament event and questions about the rules can be fielded to any official of the tournament.



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## **General Information**

### **League Play**

The MPA does not govern your league, your players, and your location of play. League Operators are responsible for handling their own league funds, paying out their league prize money, running their league, and dealing with league issues with their players. MPA is a sanctioning body that provides large added-money events for MPA-sanctioned players and teams, along with other incentives to MPA-sanctioned leagues and players. With that being stated, it is the individual league's determination on their league's structure and size. The MPA can offer guidance if called upon to do so, and will recommend any and all leagues available to a player who is wishing to participate in pool leagues in that area. The MPA will show no bias when it comes to providing information to players wishing to participate in leagues.

Leagues that sanction MPA are required to submit league statistics, or make their online stats accessible to the MPA. The first stats will accompany the MPA league sanction application. After the initial submittal, MPA would appreciate the final standings of the league once the league has ended, showing both teams and players involved with the league.

The MPA does not govern the nights of play by the leagues. MPA will make any new sanctioning league aware of current play in their area along with any other helpful information or recommendations, but protection of nights is not something that is offered by the MPA, nor do we feel it is enforceable in areas where two or more leagues operate. If you run a good league system and you treat your players fairly, they will reciprocate by showing their loyalty to your league.

### **Dual Sanctioning**

Dual sanctioning is not a problem. Any league wishing to sanction for MPA is welcome to do so regardless of any other sanctioning affiliation. In many cases, MPA encourages leagues to dual sanction because one of the incentives that may be offered is "travel money" for top-finishing teams and players who wish to compete in Las Vegas or in other post-season championship events. Teams may opt to use their travel money for attending an event that is sanctioned by a different sanctioning body, and that is fine. MPA would like to serve other national sanctioning bodies in the matter of supplying players for their large national events. These sanctioning bodies are not an "enemy" of the MPA. We must all work together to help build the structure of pool, not only locally, but regionally and nationally as well.

### **Banned Players**

Any players not in good standing with their respective MPA-sanctioned league will not be eligible to play in any MPA-sanctioned events upon notification of league operator to the MPA. The MPA will require advance notification of any player who is deemed "banned" and will require details of why that player is banned from your league. Once notified, the MPA will not allow this player participation until a resolution has been reached with player(s) involved.

Also, any player who shows poor conduct or causes issues at an MPA-sanctioned event will be banned or suspended from future MPA-sanctioned events. The league operator will be notified of any codes of conduct violations by their league player at these events. Obviously, the MPA does not govern your league so the league operator must determine that player's eligibility in future league play and events not related to the MPA.

### **Additional Information**

The MPA is staffed by knowledgeable and capable pool-oriented personnel. Any league involved with the MPA or interested in becoming involved with the MPA can call upon the MPA for guidance and assistance in many aspects of the league structure, including but not limited to starting a new league, promoting, structuring a league, and sourcing documents to maintain your league system. Many topics such as this can be discussed and resourced using websites available for your convenience. Feel free to contact the MPA with any questions you may have.



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## **Sanctioning Your League & Players**

### **Submission Requirements**

**League Sanction Application:** All leagues wishing to sanction for MPA must complete the League Sanction Application for their league. This application must also include stats or standings from the leagues they wish to sanction. Standings must include team names and all player names involved with the sanctioning process. The deadline for this application is November 1, 2019, but it is encouraged that once your league is established, the application is sent out. Also included along with the league application is the sanctioning fees. Sanction fees for MPA are \$10.00 per player.

**Team Membership Application:** All teams in your league are encouraged to fill out a team sanction application, providing certain information about themselves. One of the benefits of the MPA is incentives by some of our host casino sites and this information is necessary in order for these incentives to be given. Any player not providing all the necessary information will still be eligible for sanctioning and membership, however they may not receive the total benefit package offered by the MPA. Incentives may include: Free slot play at host casinos, free and discounted hotel rooms and meals, apparel, and other miscellaneous promotional materials. The MPA also offers text message notification during our events, and if the team application is filled out properly, all players will receive the full benefit of the MPA sanctioning.

**Player Membership Application:** This application is for players wishing to become MPA sanctioned, but they are not currently in a MPA-sanctioned league. Cost is \$20 per person, and the benefits are similar to those stated in the Team Membership Application. MPA encourages league play, but we also understand that certain personal situations don't allow a player the flexibility of playing in leagues, so these players can become sanctioned with this form.

### **Follow-up Submissions**

Once your league season is complete or underway, there may be some additional players included in your league. These players must be sanctioned if they are part of your MPA-sanctioned league. Please make sure they pay you their sanctioning fee and these funds are forwarded to the MPA along with their Team membership applications. Any applications or funds not received by tournament deadlines will result in ineligibility of these players unless they pay the \$20 player membership (non-league) fee themselves.

Finally, in the interest of keeping proper tracking and statistics of each league participating, when the league season is over, please submit a Final Standings of both teams and players. This submission will assist in a proper "checks and balances" system and will also assist in properly placing players in their appropriate divisions based on their league performance and ability of play. As league operator, please make sure that all players in your league have been sanctioned for MPA and if there are a few "late additions", please make sure you attach final payment for any latecomers.

### **League Sanction Application**

It is important that your league sanction application includes a good mailing address and proper contact information for those who are accountable for your league. Once your league application is processed and the players and teams have been sanctioned, you will be sent promotional and incentive packages that must be distributed throughout your league. The MPA will not contact your players directly unless absolutely necessary. All materials and communication will be run through the league operator listed on the League Sanction Application. Payment for sanctioning your league and players can be made by submitting this application.



# Midwest Poolplayers Association 2019-2020 League Sanction Application



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League Name \_\_\_\_\_

League Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Other Officer (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

League Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Teams in League \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Players in League \_\_\_\_\_

**Sanctioning Deadline:** The deadline for sanctioning your league is November 1, 2019 for the fall season. League Operators must attach current standings for the leagues they wish to sanction. All players in that league must be included in the sanctioning. It is further understood that League Operators will be available to be called upon for verification of players that are participating in their league system. Verification may include number of nights played, eligibility issues, and/or player's ability rating for tournaments.

**Eligibility** in MPA for players is as follows: Players must play a minimum of one (1) week in an MPA-sanctioned league system in order to be eligible for MPA-sanctioned tournaments. Exceptions may apply for "Introductory" and MPA "Promotional" events at the beginning of the league season.

**Eligibility for Teams** are as follows: Teams will consist of at least five players. All players on a team need not be from the same MPA-sanctioned league. As long as the players meet individual eligibility requirements for sanctioning and ranking, they can play together on a team. All players must meet at least minimum eligibility requirements (as stated above).

**Misc. Information:** Dual sanctioning is not a problem. Any league wishing to sanction for MPA is welcome to do so regardless of any other sanctioning they currently have. Also, any players not in good standing with their respective MPA-sanctioned league will not be eligible to play in MPA-sanctioned events upon notification of league operator to MPA. MPA does not govern your league, your players, and your location of play. League Operators are responsible for handling their own league funds, running their league, and dealing with league issues with their players. MPA is a sanctioning body that provides large added-money events for MPA-sanctioned players and teams.

All information provided on this application is true and correct. Furthermore, I understand everything that I've read on this application and agree to the terms stated above. Any false information can result in suspension or expulsion from the MPA.

League Operator/President \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# TEAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

League Name \_\_\_\_\_ League Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Your Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Captain's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number & Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3 Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4 Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Player 5 Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Player 6 Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Player 7 Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Player 8 Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Provider \_\_\_\_\_



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# \$20 PLAYER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(all information is necessary so you get the Maximun Benefit of MPA)

Player Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (required for MPA incentives) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ . Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that the information that I have provided is for the sole use of becoming a member of the MPA and for receiving the benefits and incentives offered by the MPA and its hosts and sponsors. I understand that by becoming a member of the MPA, I will conduct myself in a professional manner while participating in MPA-sanctioned events and failure to do so may result in suspension or expulsion from said events.

Player Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ .

**(Optional Section)**

I would appreciate any input from you regarding our sport and what the MPA could do to help boost pool. Please use the space provided below for your input, comments, etc. Thank you for your support and input!

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