

BYLAWS

RANDOLPH POOL LEAGUE

Effective: 7 March 2024

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1. MISSION STATEMENT

These bylaws outline responsibilities and governing procedures for the Randolph Pool League (RPL) which can consist of no more than 20 teams hosted by sponsors located within an 8.5-mile radius of FM 78 and Walzem Road (7649 FM 78), Converse, TX. The RPL is a pool league that exists merely for the sole enjoyment of its participating members. The RPL is a nonprofit organization in which all money collected will be for the benefit of its members in the form of cash and prizes, and only legitimate and necessary expenses are deducted. The league's website is located here: <http://rplsa.atwebpages.com/>

The website contains bylaws, game rules, standard operating procedures (SOP), schedules, team standings, and player win/loss statistics.

2. PROCESS FOR AMENDMENTS

A quorum of 80% of the team captains (or representatives) is required to hold a vote to ratify proposed written changes to these bylaws. In-person captains’ meeting procedures will follow the *Democratic Rules of Order* for proposals (for example – a motion must be made and then seconded, before discussion). After a captains’ meeting, any *New Business* items submitted will be reviewed by the Board for potential future action or development of a written proposal.

When the bylaws, game rules, or SOP change is enacted, an emergency *RPL Letter* can be issued by the Board to direct changes that are effective before the respective bylaws, game rules or SOP are amended and ratified by the team captains.

A) BYLAWS

Significant (non-editorial) written changes to the bylaws require a 65% super-majority approval captains vote at a meeting. Normally, the proposed changes should be issued in advance of the meeting for review and comments from the captains. Editorial changes require Board approval only.

Number of Teams	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
Quorum	16	15	14	13	13	12	11	11	10
Required Approval Votes (65%)	13	13	12	11	11	10	9	9	8

B) GAME RULES

Significant (non-editorial) written changes to RPL game rules require a 65% super-majority approval captains vote at either a meeting or email ballot. If possible, the proposed changes should be issued in advance for a comment period before official voting. Editorial changes require Board approval only.

C) STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)

The SOP provides the detailed standard operating procedures of the RPL. As such, these detailed procedures are subject to updates during the pool league season. SOP amendments are written by the Board. Proposed SOP amendment notifications are sent to the team captains via email for review and comment. If, after 7 days, there are no dissenting comments received, then the SOP amendment is considered ratified. If there are any dissenting comments, then an official 65% supermajority vote of the team captains is required at either a meeting or email ballot. For procedural changes that require immediate implementation, an emergency *RPL Letter* can be issued by the Board to direct changes that remain effective before the SOP can be amended and ratified by the team captains.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of the RPL are required to review the rules and bylaws. Payment of the \$5 new season player fee signifies compliance with this requirement.

A) BOARD

- 1) The RPL is governed by a Board of up to five league members whose names are listed on the RPL website. Sponsors are not eligible to be a Board member. If a Board member needs to be replaced, the Board will attempt to identify a qualified replacement. If a nominee is running unopposed, the captains must officially approve with a simple majority vote (captains meeting or email ballot). If more than one candidate is identified, the team captains cast a simple majority vote for the replacement (run-off election between top two candidates if less than 50%). Board members can serve as long as they desire; however, a member may be removed by 65% of the team captains voting for removal. Board members are not paid for the time they donate doing league business; however, they are reimbursed for any expenses incurred doing league business.
- 2) All bylaws, game rules and SOP are written by the Board. Proposals for changes are drafted by the Board and submitted to the captains for a comment period before such changes are ratified. Captains can suggest changes in writing anytime during the season but no later than one month prior to the end of regular season play.
- 3) The Board can remove a player or team from the RPL if it determines that the continued membership of the player or team is detrimental to the league or its members. Fighting will result in automatic removal and valid complaints regarding conduct will generally result in a warning with subsequent removal for additional complaints.
- 4) Prior to the start of each Season, the Board reviews and submits a list of all sponsor venues. The captains will vote (65% super-majority) at the pre-season meeting to accept the venues. Any venue changes that occur during the course of the season require Board approval only. A Board member must check out the facilities and pool table(s) and ensure the environmental and playing conditions are satisfactory. Items of particular concern are the condition of the pool equipment, seating and interference from other gaming activities, adequate parking, etc.

B) LEAGUE OPERATOR (LO): The LO is a Board member who has these responsibilities,

- 1) Manages the daily operation of the pool league to include preparing schedules, statistics, managing the league's finances, preparing budget and financial reports, updating the website and all other administrative tasks. Is the primary Board contact to channel league information to and from the league members
- 2) Announces and chairs the mandatory captains' meetings at the start of a new season; other meetings may be called by the LO. The LO briefs on any Board member changes; distributes materials and issues instructions for recording match results; informs captains of significant changes to the SOP; addresses continuing problem areas; coordinates the protocol for each motion brought to a vote (e.g., straw vote; voice vote; show of hands vote; secret ballot).
- 3) Six weeks before the end of the season, the LO polls the team captains to determine which teams are returning for the next season. For returning teams, priority for that team's slot will be the captain if

returning or otherwise the co-captain. If neither is returning and a team member wants to take over the team, that person has priority. If the team is disbanding or the slot is not confirmed by the established deadline, it is offered up to anyone, first come, first served. If an open slot exists not covered above, it may be filled by anyone at any time.

4) Responsible for end-of-season actions to include scheduling play-off matches and locations, setting up an end-of-season party and pool tournament, and distributing door prizes and prize money.

C) SPONSOR

1) The RPL has a goal for all venues to be non-smoking. New and existing teams can only move to non-smoking venues. As an exception to policy, the beginning Season 16 captains and co-captains of the three Hangin' Tree teams are grandfathered for the Hangin' Tree smoking-allowed venue until such time that a passing bylaws revision ends this exception.

2) At the beginning of each season, sponsors pay a non-refundable \$30 fee for each team sponsored in the league.

3) Sponsors may not have any discriminatory policies including a patron dress code that discriminates based on gender. Any confirmed discrimination policy is considered in approving a bar's sponsorship.

4) A bar can sponsor two teams for each pool table it has providing there is no scheduling conflict. If a bar has one table and wants to sponsor two teams from different leagues, a conflict is certain. When there are multiple tables, the sponsor must close any table within six feet of the table the match is played on. This rule can be waived if both team captains agree.

5) The pool table must be bar sized and able to be opened for both practice and match play to accommodate privately owned pool balls. Should a key be misplaced, it is acceptable for one week for the sponsor to use coins in the table. Anything longer than one week could result in a team having to change sponsors or to temporarily play at a different bar. On match nights, the table must be reserved for pool league use and opened by 6:15 p.m.

6) If a league member has been barred from the establishment of the host sponsor, the sponsor decides if the barred status is enforced or temporarily waived for league play.

7) During league and post season matches, the hosting sponsor will provide one complimentary drink for all team members who are present and buying drinks regardless if they played in the match. Membership status can be verified from the *Statistics* page on the league's website. Team captains must ensure complimentary drinks are of a value equal to or less than what players were paying for drinks.

D) TEAM CAPTAINS AND CO-CAPTAINS: The team captains and co-captains,

1) Must be league members and on the team roster.

2) Ensures their players are familiar with the bylaws and rules.

3) Decides who will shoot in each match and makes substitutions if desired (see *Rules, Substitutions*, for more information).

4) Resolves disputes (see *Rules, Disagreements*, for more information).

5) Collects match fees on the night of the match. Collects new player fees on the opening night of the season and when adding new players. A team captain (or co-captain) who will return the following season with the same sponsor collects and pays the sponsor fee. Team captains receive a receipt to provide to the sponsor for reimbursement.

6) Are responsible for the conduct of their players. At the first sign of any negative conduct, team captains are expected to defuse the situation immediately. Separate the participants and tell them to cease and desist. If necessary, escort them from the bar or send them home. Failure to control the situation can result in a forfeiture of a game or match. If necessary, notify the League Operator immediately so both team captains can provide their sides of the story.

- 7) Reviews team statistics and reports any errors to the LO no later than two weeks after the match in which the error occurred.
- 8) Are responsible for ensuring their players meet the eligibility requirements listed in section *Individual Players*, below. If an ineligible person is discovered to have played in matches, the LO reviews all applicable score sheets. If that person contributed to a match being won, the LO reverses those individual wins and credits them to the losing player(s) on the score sheet only. If the reversal causes the losing team's score to equal or exceed the revised score of the team with the ineligible player, the losing team is declared the winner and the teams' statistics are adjusted. Individual statistics may not be adjusted.
- 9) Ensures that no more than eight players are carried on their player roster.
- 10) Either the team captain or co-captain must attend all mandatory captains' meetings.
- 11) For match play, the home team provides a regulation Aramith red circle (or red dot) or equivalent cue ball that can be privately owned or one furnished by the league. If personal pool balls are available, the home team decides if they are used instead of house balls.
- 12) At the start of the season, captains establish a plan for distributing prize money among the team members.
- 13) Monitors the condition of their sponsor's match table to ensure it remains in good playing condition. Bar tables receive heavy use and often abuse; therefore, we do not expect them to be in pristine condition. However, such things as holes in the cloth large enough to affect ball roll, dead or broken rails, loose pockets, an unlevel playing surface, etc., are conditions that need to be fixed since they do affect play. Home captains need to bring any issue to the attention of their sponsor who either fixes the problem or asks the table vendor to do so. Visiting captains that notice a problem with a table should discuss it with the home captain. A captain unable to resolve a table problem contacts the league operator who has a Board member to visit the sponsor to check out the equipment. If the Board member agrees with the captain, the Board asks the sponsor to fix the problem in a given amount of time or a different venue will be used until the corrections have been made.
- 14) The league's official means of communication is email since we must maintain a record of information exchanged between the league and its membership; therefore, either the captain or co-captain must have an email address and check it for league correspondence at least weekly. That person is responsible for informing all teammates of any information that needs to be disseminated.
- 15) The team captain is the voting member for amendments to bylaws, game rules and voting on meeting motions. The co-captain is not a voting member unless representing the captain in his/her absence.

E) INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS

- 1) Players must be at least 21 years of age.
- 2) Must not be a current member of another Thursday night pool league.
- 3) Once a player has been a substitute for or played with a RPL team, the player cannot play for another RPL team during the current season unless an exception is granted per the guidelines as noted in the *Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)*.
- 4) Players are responsible for their personal conduct. If a conduct problem occurs, players should advise the team captains and let them handle it. If players become involved and exacerbate the problem, those players may also be subject to disciplinary action even though they did not initiate the problem. In the case of an altercation, players can defend themselves without consequence but they must not continue the altercation or retaliate when the problem is ceasing.
- 5) Any player barred from an establishment must inform the team captain so the captain can discuss the barred status with the sponsor.
- 6) Some sponsors have a dress code and prohibit such attire as clothing with profane or objectionable material displayed on it, bandanas/doo rags, shorts worn low with underwear exposed, baseball caps worn

with the bill in a position other than straight forward, etc. A good idea is simply avoiding controversial clothing.

7) Sportsmanship is treating all league members with courtesy and respect. There are no referees in our league so know our rules and avoid confrontations. *No sharking is permitted.* Sharking is any act designed to agitate opponents or disrupt their concentration during a game. Some examples are standing close to the opponent's line of vision, creating sudden noise, yelling, etc. Celebrating a win of a game or match is expected; however, moderation must be exercised and done in a manner that is not annoying or intimidating. If sharking occurs, a player should tell his team captain who then advises the other team captain of the problem. Both team captains monitor the situation so that corrective action can be taken if required.

4. COMPLAINTS

A complaint about behavior is the most common one. A team captain who believes there is a problem discusses it with the opposing team captain and gives that captain a chance to solve it--this is mandatory. If after discussion the problem continues, the complaining captain can try talking again, contact a Board member for guidance or file a complaint with the Board. Complaints must be filed within three days of the incident, contain specific details about what occurred, the names of people who can provide information and so on. Statements from those involved or witnesses with firsthand information are helpful. The SOP contains additional guidelines for complaint procedures.

Official complaints are handled and decided by the Board.

5. FEES AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

All league funds are deposited in an RPL bank account and financial reports are available from the LO upon written request. Funds are used to pay bills and to provide prizes and prize money to league members. Board members and the LO are not paid for their services. There can only be reimbursements for money spent on the league.

- A) **Sponsors pay** a \$30.00 fee for each team being sponsored in the RPL.
- B) **Individuals pay** a \$5.00 new season player fee at the first match of the season or when added to the roster.
- C) **Teams pay** match fees of \$24.00 per match regardless of how many people play unless a scheduled bye occurs in which case no match fee is due.
- D) **\$rplleague** is the league's address for Cash App (the primary method of paying fees to the RPL). Detailed information is available in the SOP.
- E) **The LO creates a budget** with the season's projected revenue, how much individual and team prize money is to be awarded, and so on. Sufficient funds must be budgeted for supplies, scoresheets, prize money, door prizes, etc.