

NEW 2017/2018 SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDE

The Tampa APA League Office has set a new policy regarding the handling of poor sportsmanship, such as, verbal abuse, language (profanity), physical contact and other sportsmanship problems (i.e. breaking cue sticks, throwing objects or sharking your opponent).

We have determined that situations between our players are best handled on the night of play. Sometimes, a simple apology works well because a player had a few too many drinks and didn't even realize he/she offended someone. We do not encourage our team members to confront each other, however, do encourage you to inform your captain when a situation arises that makes you uncomfortable.

Your captain should respectfully discuss the situation with the captain of the accused player, on the night of play. If, for any reason, it can not be handled successfully, it should be brought to the attention of the Division Rep **on that night of play**. Only if the Rep feels that it can not be resolved and needs the attention of the league office or the board of governors, **the Division Rep will write up the sportsmanship complaint.** We will typically ask for at least one neutral witness as well.

If the complaint is with your captain, then you should go directly to your Division Rep. If the problem is within two members of the same team, the captain should sit both players down and try to resolve it. If unsuccessful, then bring the issue to the Division Rep. If the problem is with the Division Rep, the captain should contact the league office directly. We would email you a sportsmanship complaint form to fill out for our records.

Note: These guidelines are minimum suggested penalties and are not limited to these recommendations. Based upon the specific circumstance, this League Office has the option to impose an even stronger penalty. It is important that those ladies and gentlemen, who cannot act as such, adjust their behavior appropriately or risk being removed from the League

Verbal abuse consists of name calling, threats, profanity or any other language that could be considered as harassment, or that could cause embarrassment to other League members or non-members. **Physical contact** is the hostile physical contact between two players or player and non-member(s). This contact can be in the form of bumping, shoving, pushing or hitting.

Infraction	First Offense	Repeat Offenses
Profanity	Warning Letter	30 Day Suspension
Arguing Rules & Policies	Warning Letter	30 Day Suspension
Verbal Abuse	Warning Letter to a 30-60 Day Suspension	60-90 Day Suspension
Threatening Remarks Threatening Behavior	Warning Letter to a 1-Year Suspension	1 Year Suspension
Throwing Objects Breaking Objects	60-90 Day Suspension	1 Year Suspension
Physical Fighting	Suspension to a Termination of Membership by the American Poolplayers Association	
All Other Physical Contact	Suspension to a Termination of Membership by the American Poolplayers Association	

