

## WORLD QUALIFIERS TEAM CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

THIS COMPLETED STATEMENT MUST BE PRESENTED AT REGISTRATION AT THE TOURNAMENT VENUE

All players of the Team must certify their skill levels on this TEAM CERTIFICATION STATEMENT. Each Team member's skill level must accurately reflect each player's true pool playing ability.

APA rules require that each player on the Team must be certified at the HIGHEST SKILL LEVEL of the following: (1) the skill level that the player and Team believes represents the player's best playing ability, (2) the player's current APA assigned skill level, (3) the session-ending skill level in the session in which the Team qualified for the World Qualifiers (formally known as Local Team Championships), (4) the highest session-ending skill level in any session after the session in which the Team qualified, or (5) the player's highest skill level in any APA League area in which the player currently plays. Additionally, if a player's skill level was updated or changed to a higher skill level during a prior Higher Level Tournament that higher skill level applies to the player in this Tournament. No player who has competed in a previous APA Poolplayers Championship or APA World Pool Championships will be allowed to enter any subsequent Higher Level Tournament with a lower Skill Level than the one they played at, or were assigned, during those tournaments, unless APA has granted a previously requested exception requested by the League Operator of the player affected; such exceptions are rare.

If a Team believes any team member's current playing ability is better than the players assigned skill level or if the player should be listed at a higher skill level based on any of the above criteria, the Team must request on this Team Certification Statement that the player's skill level be raised to the appropriate higher skill level. This is the Team's only opportunity to request an adjustment to a skill level for a player. Thereafter, if a player's skill level increases due to the player's performance or is increased as a result of the Tournament Director's discretionary judgment, the Team can be subject to disqualification from this Tournament and/or other penalties. Arguments such as the player has been practicing (therefore improved) or has not been drinking alcoholic beverages (therefore playing better) are not grounds for any appeal or challenge of an increase in a player's skill level.

If a player has not signed this Statement, that player's skill level will not be printed on the scoresheet and the player will be ineligible and cannot play in the team's matches for that round of the Tournament. The player may become eligible for the next round by signing this Statement and attesting to his skill level so that it will be printed on the next round scoresheet.

### RULES FOR PARTICIPATION (Please Read)

- 1. Tournament Director:** APA World Pool Championships are operated and administered by the American Poolplayers Association, Inc. and its affiliated leagues in Canada and Japan (collectively "APA"). APA acting through designated APA official, including APA's Handicap Review Committee ("HRC"), is the Tournament Director of the APA's World Pool Championships. The World Qualifiers tournament is operated and administered by the League Operator of the Local APA Pool League under the authority of APA and APA's Rules. The League Operator (or designee) is Tournament Director of the World Qualifiers.
- 2. Tournament Director Has Full Authority & Discretion:** The Tournament Director has the full, absolute and final authority to make all rulings, decisions and judgments, in the exercise of his/her sole discretion, on all issues and matters related to this Tournament. The Tournament Director's rulings, determinations and judgments are final.
- 3. Handicapped Tournament:** This is a handicapped Tournament. The objective is that the Tournament be fair and equitable for all players – players with varying pool playing ability or skill – such that any player has the opportunity to compete in his match and advance. Skill levels are calculated using *The Equalizer*® Handicapping System, APA's proprietary scoring and handicapping system.
- 4. The Equalizer®:** *The Equalizer*® Handicapping System is a computer-based system of mathematical formulas that calculate a player's skill level based on data from the player's prior performance in matches. In addition, as part of the System, certain subjective judgments may be made from performance data and/or observation of the player's play and performance. Skill levels must be certified by each player and the Team in accordance with the rules stated above. Skill levels may be adjusted up or down during the course of the Tournament through *The Equalizer*® handicapping system including the judgment of the Tournament Director and its designated officials the undersigned team members recognize and agree that *The Equalizer*® is a highly protected, confidential and proprietary trade secret belonging to APA.
- 5. APA's Standard Rules Apply:** The Rules contained in The Official APA/CPA 8-Ball & 9-Ball Game Rules Booklet and APA's Official Team Manual shall apply to this event. If there is any inconsistency between this Statement and anything in the standard rules, this Statement shall control.
- 6. Player Eligibility:** A maximum of 8 players may be on a Team's roster for this Tournament. All players on the Tournament roster must have been on the Team's Local League Spring Session roster. In order to participate in a Higher Level Tournament, a player must have a skill level based on at least 10 actual League match scores in the format in which he is participating. Each player on a Team must have played at least 4 times with the Team in the Spring Session (local Bylaws may require more). In order for a team to retain eligibility for Higher Level Tournaments, at least four members must be original members from the session the team qualified. Players must be at least age 18. No player under age 18 may participate in any APA Higher Level Tournament (except events specifically for Juniors only). Players not meeting this criterion are not allowed to play. Playing an ineligible player may result in disqualification of the Team from the Tournament.
- 7. Certification Packet:** The League Operator will submit to APA a certification packet (including each player's handicap record, all the original scoresheets of the matches the team played in the session when the team qualified through the Spring Session and in the World Qualifier, the Team Certification Statement that the team members signed prior to the start of the World Qualifier, team entry fee, and Team Registration Form filled out by the members of the team after qualifying. Without a certification packet, teams will not be allowed to compete in the World Pool Championships.
- 8. Limitations on Players in Common with Another Team:** During the World Qualifiers; teams may have more than 2 common players per team, per format. It is not necessary for them to choose a team(s) until they advance to the World Pool Championships.
- 9. Obligation to Present and Check Identification of All Players:** All players must have a current valid Photo ID in the form of a state-issued Driver's License or non-driver Identification Card, a Military ID, or a Passport. Players must have their Photo ID with them at all times during the Tournament and should present their Photo ID to the opposing team when put up in a match without having to be asked. It is the responsibility of every team to verify that all opposing players put up in the match have current valid Photo IDs that positively identify each player as being the person shown on the opposing team's roster. Do not assume a player is who they say they are. If an opposing player has not voluntarily presented his Photo ID to your Captain for verification, it is the responsibility of your team's Captain to request the opposing player present his Photo ID and to be satisfied with the opposing player's identity prior to the lag. If your Captain is not satisfied with the identity of an opposing player, your Captain must immediately call over a Tournament Official to examine the identity of the questioned player. If the Tournament Official cannot readily verify the player's identity from the player's Photo ID, he may consult the Tournament Director. The determination of identity made by the Tournament Director, in its sole discretion and judgment, is final. If your Captain fails to verify each opposing player put up in the match and an opposing player turns out to be an imposter or to not have a valid Photo ID, in APA's sole judgment and discretion, your team may be bound by the results of the match and your team may not be granted any relief or remedy. If a player is put up to play and does not have his Photo ID, the individual match will be forfeited to the opponent, without right of protest, or appeal and the player will not be eligible to play later in that team match. It is no excuse that a player's Photo ID was lost, left somewhere, or that the player needs to go get it. Any team playing (whether intentionally, knowingly, or accidentally) an imposter or a player who cannot verify his identity is subject to immediate disqualification from the Tournament and the Team's members are all subject to indefinite suspension from further participation in the APA, in APA's sole judgment and discretion.
- 10. League Operators and Staff Ineligible:** The following are ineligible to play in this Tournament: any League Operator or affiliated person (including any owner, shareholder, officer, director, and any spouse, significant other, relationship-partner, and live-in family of a League Operator or affiliated person, as well as any person involved in the computation of skill levels or in a position to manipulate team rosters and/or handicaps). Any questionable player must be cleared by APA in advance. APA's determination (in its judgment and discretion) of a player's eligibility to participate is final.
- 11. The 23-Rule:** The 23-Rule will be enforced. If updating of player skill levels during tournament play puts a team in violation of the 23-Rule, the Team will not be disqualified provided: (a) when the sum of the lowest 5 players on the Team Roster exceeds 23, the Team may play 4 players whose combined skill levels do not exceed 19 in 8-Ball/9-Ball Divisions, and forfeit the fifth match; (b) if the sum of the 4 lowest players on the roster exceeds 19 in 8-Ball/9-Ball Divisions, the Team may play 3 players whose combined skill levels do not exceed 15 in 8-Ball/9-Ball Divisions, and forfeit the fourth and fifth match. No team will be allowed to add a player to the roster for 23 purposes.
- 12. Handicap Manipulation/"Sandbagging" Will Not Be Tolerated:** Handicap manipulation or the appearance of handicap manipulation by a Team or team member compromises the fairness and integrity of the Tournament and will not be tolerated.
- 13. Excessive Skill Level Movement:** The Tournament Director (including HRC and other Tournament officials) is the sole judge of a player's ability and has the authority to make this determination in the exercise of its absolute judgment and discretion. The Tournament Director may disqualify any Team if, in the Tournament Director's sole judgment and absolute discretion, a Team is deemed to have an unfair advantage due to excessive upward movement of the skill levels of one or more players. Player skill levels may be raised at any time (before, during or after this Tournament) due to objective and/or subjective considerations to whatever skill level the Tournament Director considers appropriate in his judgment and discretion. The determination of whether the skill level at which a player is playing is below the player's actual playing ability is necessarily subjective. All situations are separate. Action or inaction taken with one player or team has no effect and will not limit the authority of the Tournament Director to take whatever action (or no action) the Tournament Director considers appropriate regarding another player or team.

**14. Disqualification:** A Team or Player may be disqualified from this Tournament in the Tournament Director's sole judgment and discretion. Grounds for disqualification include without limitation (a) excessive skill level movement, (b) irregularities or falsification of any Tournament scoresheet or contents of the Certification Package, (c) fraudulent circumstances of whatever nature, or (d) sportsmanship violations or conduct deemed to be a discredit or affecting the integrity of the Tournaments, the League or the sport. Disqualification of a team for any reasons means forfeiture of all titles, awards, prize money, and minimum two (2) year suspension of team members from the League. Disqualification can occur at any time - prior to, during, or after the event.

**15. Travel Assistance:** APA's policy is that the Local League Operator awards Travel Assistance to the team advancing from the World Qualifiers to the World Pool Championship event held each August in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Travel Assistance fund paid by the Local League Operator is not prize money and should not be considered prize money. Travel Assistance is to offset some or all of the expenses to the Team in traveling to and participating in the World Pool Championships. The Travel Assistance fund is to be split equitably among the team members going to Las Vegas. Proof of travel arrangements to the Championships is required. If a team wins the World Qualifiers and does not intend to go to the World Pool Championships, the team is not eligible to receive awards from the Travel Assistance fund; the Travel Assistance will instead be awarded to the highest finishing Team that will attend World Pool Championships. Likewise, if one or more players on the winning team will not be going to the World Pool Championships, the non-attending player is not eligible for a share of the Travel Assistance award.

IN CONSIDERATION OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS TOURNAMENT, WE, THE UNDERSIGNED PLAYERS, AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

- A. We have read, understand and agree to follow and be governed by the Rules set forth above (as supplemented by The Official APA/CPA 8-Ball & 9-Ball Game Rules Booklet and APA Official Team Manual).
- B. We certify the skill levels listed below reflect our actual best playing ability as of the date this Statement is submitted at Tournament Registration. If we believe that a team member's present playing ability is greater than their assigned skill level, we have marked this Statement to request a change of that player's skill level to a higher skill level. If we have not written in a skill level below, we will be deemed to have certified that the current skill level is accurate.
- C. We recognize the Tournament Director has the full authority to conduct this Tournament and to make all rulings and determinations that the Tournament Director considers appropriate in his sole and absolute judgment and discretion, including the ability to adjust a skill level, to disqualify a Team or Player from this Tournament, or to take such other actions as the Tournament Director considers appropriate in the exercise of his sole discretion, judgment and authority.
- D. We recognize the determination of whether a player's skill level reflects a player's actual or true pool playing ability is inherently subjective and a matter of judgment. We agree if the Tournament Director believes (in his judgment and discretion) a team member's assigned skill level is below that player's true pool playing ability, the Tournament Director has the authority and discretion to take whatever action the Tournament Director considers appropriate, including disqualifying this Team from the Tournament, or raising a player's skill level to a higher skill level (for example, increase Player Smith from SL-3 to SL-4).
- E. In the event of any disqualification of a Player or the Team, increase of a player's skill level, or other ruling, decision, judgment, or exercise of discretionary authority adverse to a Player or Team, we agree any challenge shall be strictly limited to the Tournament appeal procedures. The decision of the Tournament appeal shall be final, conclusive, and binding upon us. WE AGREE WE WILL NOT SUE OR ASSERT ANY CLAIM (INCLUDING FOR DAMAGES, DECLARATORY, OR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF) IN ANY COURT, FORUM OR PROCEEDING. IF ANY CLAIM IS BROUGHT BY ANY PLAYER(S) OR THE TEAM IN ANY COURT, FORUM OR PROCEEDING AGAINST APA (INCLUDING TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS), LEAGUE OPERATOR, OR SPONSOR (INCLUDING ANY OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, PARENT ENTITIES, SUBSIDIARIES, AND AFFILIATES) WE AGREE TO PAY SUCH PARTY'S REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES IN DEFENDING AND OBTAINING DISMISSAL OF THE ACTION.
- F. We agree our appeal of any disqualification, increase to a player's skill level, or other ruling, decision, judgment or exercise of discretionary authority by the Tournament Director shall not delay or affect the progress of the Tournament. Even if our appeal is sustained by Tournament officials, we agree we have no right or entitlement to any particular remedy (including any berth in a Higher Level Tournament, travel expense, prize, award, refund of entry fee, or recovery of any cost or expense). In no event, under any circumstances, shall we have a right to damages or loss in excess of a refund of our entry fee into this Tournament.
- G. **FULL RELEASE:** WE AGREE TO WAIVE, RELEASE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE APA (INCLUDING TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS), LOCAL LEAGUE OPERATOR, TOURNAMENT VENUE, AND SPONSORS, INCLUDING THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, PARENT ENTITIES, SUBSIDIARIES, AND AFFILIATES (COLLECTIVELY THE "RELEASED PARTIES") FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, CAUSES OF ACTION, LOSS AND DAMAGES, ARISING FROM OR RELATING TO OUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO (1) ANY CLAIM, DAMAGE OR LOSS RELATING TO OR ARISING FROM ANY RULING, DECISION, JUDGMENT OR OTHER EXERCISE OF DISCRETION BY APA, THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR ANY RELEASED PARTY; (2) PERSONAL OR BODILY INJURIES (INCLUDING DEATH); AND (3) DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF PROPERTY, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, PRESENT OR FUTURE, OR CONTINGENT OR CERTAIN. THIS RELEASE EXTENDS FULLY TO ANY PRESENT OR FUTURE ACTS/INACTIONS WHETHER NEGLIGENT, RECKLESS, KNOWING OR INTENTIONAL.
- H. We agree to pay for any injury, damage or loss to person or property caused by our conduct, acts and inactions while participating in this event. In the case any loss is incurred or any charge or claim is made against APA (any of the above Released Parties) for any injury, damage or loss to person or property due to the conduct, act or inaction of any of us, we agree to defend and indemnify APA (and the Released Parties) from and against such charge or claim.
- I. If the Tournament is cancelled or the place of the Tournament is changed, for any reason, we understand our only remedy is refund of our entry fee.
- J. **GRAPHIC/VIDEO/AUDIO/MEDIA APPEARANCE RELEASE:** In connection with our appearance at and participation in this Event and all related activities and our visit to Las Vegas, we each give APA (and its licensees, designees and assigns) the full, unconditional and irrevocable right to (1) film, photograph, tape, record and edit each of us and to use our personal biographic information, including without limitation, our appearance, likeness, identity, name, nickname, behavior, actions, voice, and conversations at any time during the Event by use of any means, media or technology (collectively the "Appearance"); (2) use, broadcast, reproduce, distribute and exhibit our Appearance freely in any media or for any purpose, including for any and all advertising, promotional and commercial purposes, (3) edit, modify, adapt, make derivative works from, copyright and otherwise use our Appearance as APA chooses. We each recognize that content of our Appearance (including how the content is edited or any of us may be depicted or portrayed) may be viewed as favorable, positive, humorous, embarrassing, unfavorable, or negative, and we each hereby waive any claim that we may have against APA or any employee, agent, assign or licensee relating to how our Appearance is edited, depicted or portrayed in any work that may be created. We each expressly waive any claim of any right or interest in the Appearance and any compensation or other benefits for our Appearance in any media or distribution outlet. We each acknowledge and agree that APA shall be the exclusive owner of all copyrights and other rights to and in connection with such Appearance and APA shall have full rights to license others to use them in any manner at APA's discretion.

We each certify that we are APA Members in good standing and amateur players, without any professional characteristics, and eligible to participate in this Tournament. We each certify our representations in this Statement are true and correct to the best of our knowledge, information, and belief. By signing this Statement, we certify we have read it thoroughly, understand the terms and consent to all of the conditions and rules for our participation in this event. By our signatures, we also certify that the skill levels listed reflect our true playing ability as of the date this Statement is presented at Registration. It is the responsibility of each player to ensure that the skill level Tournament scoresheets reflects any changes made on this Statement.

	CORRECT SKILL LEVEL	#	PLAYER	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE
TEAM CAPTAIN:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TEAM MEMBERS:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

LEAGUE OPERATOR SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_