

PLAYER GUIDE

2021 USA POOL LEAGUE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sept 1-11, 2021
Las Vegas, NV



USA POOL LEAGUE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

RIO ALL-SUITE HOTEL & CASINO - LAS VEGAS, NV

~~MARCH 3-13~~ 2021

Sept 1-11

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Contents

NEW FOR THIS YEAR	2
Event Rescheduled for Sept. 1-11, 2021	2
Revised eligibility requirements.....	2
Original Player Change.....	2
Pro Events Return	2
CSI Teams Division Added.....	2
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	3
GENERAL INFO	3
Important Dates.....	3
Refunds & Changes.....	3
Event Fees.....	3
Digital Membership Card & Valid Photo ID Required	4
Hotel Discount - Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino	4
Dress Code	4
Fargo Ratings.....	4
Start Times & Format	5
Match Conflicts.....	5
TEAMS	6
Team Check-In & Rosters.....	6
Team Shirts	6
Eligibility	6
Team Rating Limits	6
Announcing Players & Pace of Play.....	6
Original Player Requirement	6
Divisions.....	7
SINGLES	8
Eligibility	8
Divisions.....	8
CUESPORTS INTERNATIONAL (CSI) DIVISIONS	9
Eligibility	9
Individual Rating Increases	9
Divisions.....	9
MINI-TOURNAMENTS	9
Eligibility	9

NEW FOR THIS YEAR

Event Rescheduled for Sept. 1-11, 2021

The safety of our members and staff remains our top priority. The rise of COVID-19 cases and tighter restrictions being implemented around the world has created the need to reschedule the event. The new dates of September 1-11 will help ensure everyone's safety.

Revised eligibility requirements

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulty it has placed on our leagues, the minimum eligibility requirements have been revised. To be eligible, players must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session during the 2020 calendar year;
or...
- Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2021 and the registration deadline of Aug 2, 2021

Original Player Change.

Previously, an "original player" was defined as someone who has played at least (8) weeks with the team in the final session of the calendar year (typically the fall session). This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **an "original player" is defined as someone who has played at least four (4) weeks with the team in the final session prior to the Aug 2 registration deadline** (the spring or summer session). Teams are still required to have a minimum of two (2) original players. Although original players are no longer required to play the first two sets of each match, at least two (2) sets of the lineup must include original players.

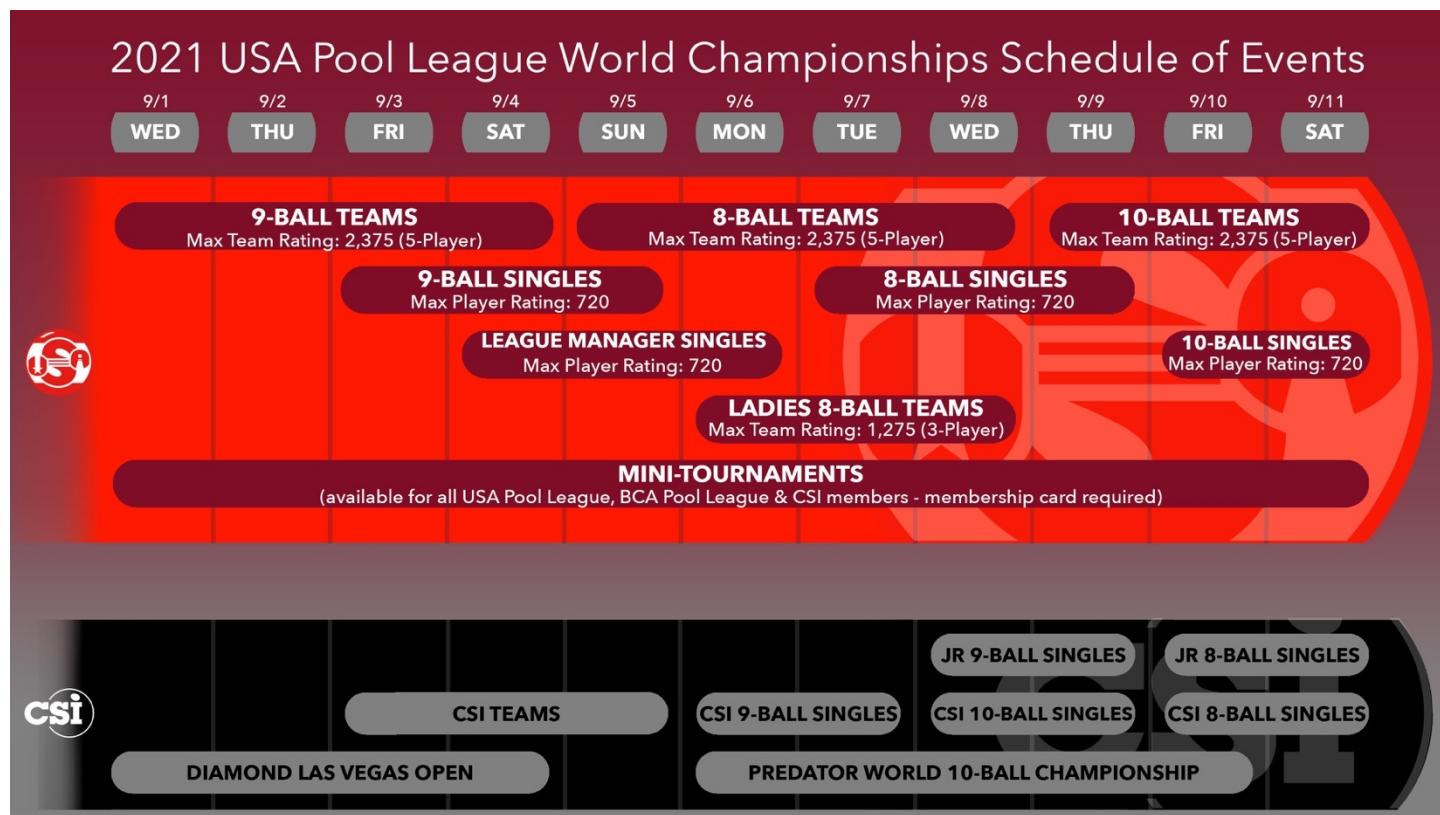
Pro Events Return

Predator and CueSports International (CSI) are excited to announce the return of the \$100k added Predator World 10-Ball Championship and the \$25k added Diamond Las Vegas Open during the USA Pool League National Championships. These events have become two of the most anticipated pro events in the world and you will get to enjoy them in person for free in the CSI Arena.

CSI Teams Division Added.

For those who don't have the opportunity to join a USA Pool League, especially teams from other leagues such as VNEA, ACS, TAP, APA, etc., we have added the CSI 8-Ball Team division. Although players must be CSI members (\$40/year), the entry fee is greater than the USA Pool League divisions and there is no added money, this division does allow everyone to experience team play at the CueSports International Expo.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



GENERAL INFO

The purpose of this document is to provide the necessary information about the event so you can decide which divisions to compete in and how to register. This document is not intended to convey the procedures that must be followed during the event. For that info, please refer to the Tournament Regulations.

Important Dates

June 28: Last day for early entry discount

July 26: Last day for mailed entries & personal checks

Aug 2: Last day to register (most divisions)

Aug 9: Last day for refund requests

Aug 16: Last day for change requests & TBA names

Aug 18: Last day for hotel discount

Refunds & Changes

Refund requests must be received in writing by email, fax or postal mail by Aug 9, 2021 and will be processed after Sep 20, 2021. Admin fees are non-refundable and an additional \$20 processing fee applies to each entry refunded. Change requests must be received by Aug 16, 2021 and a \$20/player processing fee applies to each change.

Event Fees

Admin fees help cover the cost of processing registrations, verifying eligibility, verifying ratings, etc. Late registrations create a backlog, require extra personnel and cause increased labor cost. On-site registrations require extra event staff and even more labor costs. Because admin fees are consumed during the registration process, they are non-refundable. Admin fees are included in the entry fees and are as follows:

DIVISION TYPE	EARLY ENTRY (by June 28)	LATE ENTRY (June 29-Aug 2)	ON-SITE ENTRY
SINGLES	\$25	additional \$25	additional \$25
TEAMS	\$20/core player	additional \$20/core player	additional \$20/core player

Green fees help cover the cost of the venue, equipment, staff, set-up, tear-down, etc. Green fees are refundable if a written refund request is submitted prior to the refund request deadline. Green fees are included in the entry fees and are as follows:

DIVISION TYPE	EARLY ENTRY (by June 28)	LATE ENTRY (June 29-Aug 2)	ON-SITE ENTRY
SINGLES	\$25	\$25	\$25
TEAMS	\$20/core player	\$20/core player	\$20/core player

Change fees help cover the cost of processing changes such as removing players from teams, adding players to teams, verifying the eligibility of new players, verifying the ratings of new players, etc. The change fee is \$20/change. We encourage you to be confident about your registration before submitting it to avoid change fees.

Digital Membership Card & Valid Photo ID Required

All participants must have their digital membership card and valid Government-issued photo ID and present it to all opposing players, teams or staff upon request. Your digital membership card can be found in your personal profile on the FargoRate mobile app which can be downloaded free for Android and Apple devices. Physical cards are no longer produced so please download the FargoRate app and have your digital membership card ready to show upon request. Failure to show your digital membership card and valid Government-issued photo ID can result in automatic disqualification and forfeiture of entry fees and prize money.

Hotel Discount - Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Book by Aug 18, 2021 to receive the special group rate of \$90/\$149. **No resort fees. No parking fees.**

- Online Link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRCSI1>
- Phone: (888) 746-6955; Group Code: **srcsi1** (processing charge may apply to phone reservations)

Dress Code

All events will follow Dress Code A (See the Tournament Regulations) unless otherwise specified.

Fargo Ratings

FargoRate has replaced the outdated systems of subjectively classifying players as Open-Advanced-Master, A-B-C, 3-4-5, etc. Players with at least 200 games of data in the FargoRate system have an established rating. Those with fewer than 200 games have a preliminary rating based on any data in the FargoRate system and a starter rating assigned by the USA Pool League.

Example: John has a Fargo Rating of 593 based on just 50 games. He was assigned a starter rating of 560 by the USA Pool League. John's preliminary rating would be calculated by a proportional combination of the two numbers ($593 \times 25\% + 560 \times 75\%$). Therefore, John's preliminary rating would be 568. Starter ratings may be adjusted by the USA Pool League at any time.

Rating Reviews

We carefully review the ratings of all players who register. This process takes time and **we reserve the right to adjust starter ratings and correct errors at any time.** To avoid late rating issues, we encourage you to register early and make sure your rating and your teammate's ratings reflect actual skill level. **Any type of rating correction is not grounds for a refund.**

Please Note: You may register anytime. There is no need to wait until you actually reach the minimum weeks of play requirement to register. So please, **REGISTER EARLY.**

Rating Penalties

If any adjustments to starter ratings push a team over the maximum rating limit, the team will be assessed one penalty point for each point over the limit.

Don't Get Disqualified

We take player ratings very seriously. A player who intentionally enters an event with a rating that is too low for his or her ability, is cheating. Be aware that we have tools in place to monitor players who are consistently and significantly performing above their rating during the event. We reserve the right to disqualify any player without refund. Don't get disqualified. If you believe you are underrated, contact the USA Pool League prior to the registration deadline.

Ladies Events

While a Ladies Team division is offered, FargoRate and the USA Pool League Handicap System provides the opportunity for ladies to compete on a level playing field against men. A lady rated 450 plays at the same level as a man rated 450. Therefore, ladies are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the other divisions.

Start Times & Format

Divisions may begin as early as 9am on the dates listed. However, various factors could delay start times and a delayed start is not grounds for a refund. Always check the tournament brackets at www.ctsondemand.com for the exact start time of your match or ask the Tournament Director. All divisions are shorter races and true double elimination format unless otherwise noted.

Plan Your Travel Carefully

We encourage you to allow plenty of time before and after the event for travel. The USA Pool League is not responsible for airline delays, lost luggage, traffic jams or any other travel-related issue that could cause you to miss your match and be forfeited. Matches are not delayed or accelerated to accommodate travel issues. Therefore, you are advised to arrive no later than the day before your division(s) begin and leave no sooner than the day after the event ends.

How to Avoid Forfeits

Each year, people forfeit matches because they do not follow the correct procedures. Matches are not announced at the event and there may be occasions when your table is not available at the scheduled time because earlier matches are running late. You are responsible to be at your assigned table when it becomes available. Please review Appendix A – Using CTS (CueSports Tournament System) and the Tournament Regulations. These documents detail the process of avoiding forfeits. If you still need help, please ask the Tournament Director. Being forfeited as a result of not following the correct procedures (see the Golden Rule below) is not grounds for a refund or a credit.

Golden Rule: If you are at your assigned table at the scheduled match time and do not leave, you cannot be forfeited.

Match Conflicts

You may want to play in as many divisions as possible to get the most out of the experience. Therefore, participants are free to register for divisions that overlap. However, the USA Pool League is only able to schedule around select overlapping divisions as noted in the table below. If match conflicts occur that are not specified in the second column below, the player or team must forfeit one of the conflicting matches without refund.

If you're in...	We WILL schedule around...	We WILL NOT schedule around...
9-Ball Teams	9-Ball Singles	League Manager Singles, CSI Teams
9-Ball Singles	9-Ball Teams, 8-Ball Teams	League Manager Singles, CSI Teams
League Manager Singles	No other division	9-Ball Teams, 9-Ball Singles, 8-Ball Teams, Ladies 8-Ball Teams, CSI Teams
8-Ball Teams	9-Ball Singles, 8-Ball Singles	League Manager Singles, Ladies 8-Ball Teams, CSI Teams
Ladies 8-Ball Teams	8-Ball Singles	8-Ball Teams, League Manager Singles
8-Ball Singles	8-Ball Teams, Ladies 8-Ball Teams, 10-Ball Teams	-
10-Ball Teams	8-Ball Singles, 10-Ball Singles	-
10-Ball Singles	10-Ball Teams	-
Junior 9-Ball Singles	No other division	8-Ball Teams, 8-Ball Singles, Ladies 8-Ball Teams, 10-Ball Teams
Junior 8-Ball Singles	No other division	10-Ball Teams, 10-Ball Singles
CSI Teams	No other division	9-Ball Teams, 9-Ball Singles, League Manager Singles, 8-Ball Teams
CSI 9-Ball Singles	No other division	8-Ball Teams, League Manager Singles, Ladies 8-Ball Teams, 8-Ball Singles
CSI 10-Ball Singles	No other division	8-Ball Teams, 8-Ball Singles, Ladies 8-Ball Teams, 10-Ball Teams
CSI 8-Ball Singles	No other division	10-Ball Teams, 10-Ball Singles
Diamond Las Vegas Open	No other division	9-Ball Teams, 9-Ball Singles, League Manager Singles, CSI Teams

TEAMS

Team Check-In & Rosters

Team check-in is required and begins at 4pm, Tuesday, Aug 31, 2021. The Team Captain or League Manager is responsible to check-in teams at the USA Pool League Registration Desk and obtain official team rosters. Teams must present their official team roster and Government-issued photo IDs to all opponents to confirm ratings and identify which players are original players. Team Captains are responsible for team rosters and there is a \$10 charge for reprinting them.

Team Shirts

Please note the following team shirt requirements from Dress Code A:

- Team shirts are required during team competition.
- Color and style of team shirts (front & back) must match (except for the player names)
- Each member must have his or her own team shirt. Borrowing the shirt of a teammate is not permitted.

Eligibility

- All players must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session during the 2020 calendar year; or...
 - Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2021 and the registration deadline of Aug 2, 2021
- Players are only eligible to participate in team events in the game in which they became eligible.
- Teams (men & ladies)
 - Must have at least five (5) USA Pool League qualified players with a maximum roster size of eight (8) players.
 - Must consist of at least two (2) original players. Two (2) sets of each match must be played by original players. An "original player" is defined as someone who has played at least four (4) weeks with the team in the final session prior to the Aug 2 registration deadline (the spring or summer session).
 - Non-original players must have played four (4) weeks with the same exact team entered in the tournament during a single division session during 2020 or 2021.
 - No player may be rated higher than 720. If a player is rated 720 or below at the time of registration and his or her rating moves above 720 before the event, the entry fee will be refunded.
- Ladies Teams (women only)
 - Must have at least three (3) USA Pool League qualified players with a maximum roster size of five (5) players.
 - There is no original player requirement.
 - No lady may be rated higher than 660. If a player is rated 660 or below at the time of registration and her rating moves above 660 before the event, she will have her entry fee refunded.

Team Rating Limits

The team rating limit for all 5-player team divisions is 2,375 for the five (5) players who compete in the match. The team rating limit for all 3-player team divisions is 1,275 for the three (3) players who compete in the match. If a team surpasses the limit, it will be assessed one (1) penalty point for each point over.

Announcing Players & Pace of Play

All matches will be played on the number of tables assigned by the Tournament Director. Once a table is available, the team putting up the first player must name that player within two (2) minutes of the previous set's conclusion. Once that player has been named, the opponent must name their player within two (2) minutes. Both players have five (5) minutes to report to the table after being named. If teams do not name players in a timely manner, they run the risk of forfeiting that set.

Original Player Requirement

This does not apply to Ladies Teams. At least two (2) original players must play each match. An "original player" is defined as someone who has played at least four (4) weeks with the team in the final session prior to the Aug 2 registration deadline (the spring or summer session). Teams may have more than two (2) original players and the status of being an original player will be confirmed by the USA Pool League. It is the Team Captain's responsibility to confirm the status of their players upon registration.

Divisions

USA POOL LEAGUE TEAM DIVISIONS	START DATE	TEAM SIZE / MAX RATING	RACE	EARLY ENTRY ² (by June 28)	LATE ENTRY ² (June 29-Aug 2)	ON-SITE ENTRY
9-Ball Teams	9/1 (Wed)	5-player / 2,375	Hdcp	\$625	\$725	N/A
8-Ball Teams	9/5 (Sun)	5-player / 2,375	Hdcp	\$625	\$725	N/A
Ladies 8-Ball Teams	9/6 (Mon)	3-player / 1,275	Hdcp	\$375	\$435	N/A
10-Ball Teams	9/9 (Thu)	5-player / 2,375	Hdcp	\$625	\$725	N/A

1. All matches are played with the USA Pool League Handicap System powered by FargoRate.
2. Each entry includes admin & green fees. See the General Info section for a breakdown of those fees.

SINGLES

Check-in for singles divisions is not required. However, it is your responsibility to know when and where you play.

Eligibility

- All players must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session during the 2020 calendar year; or...
 - Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2021 and the registration deadline of Aug 2, 2021
- Players are only eligible to participate in singles events in the game in which they became eligible.
- No person may be rated higher than 720. If a player registers and is at 720 or below and his or her rating increases beyond 720 before the event, the entry fee will be refunded.
- League Manager Singles is open only to active USA Pool League Managers.

8-Ball & 9-Ball Singles

8-Ball and 9-Ball Singles will likely be split into two divisions: Gold and Silver. The Gold division will contain the upper 50% of the field and the Silver division will contain the lower 50% of the field. The draw and the separation of divisions will be done after the refund deadline. Depending on the number of participants, the USA Pool League may elect to not split divisions.

10-Ball Singles

Depending on the number of participants, the USA Pool League may separate 10-Ball Singles into two divisions or have them play as one division.

Divisions

USA POOL LEAGUE SINGLES DIVISIONS	START DATE	COMPOSITION (approx.)	RACE ¹	EARLY ENTRY ² (by June 28)	LATE ENTRY ² (June 29-Aug 2)	ON-SITE ENTRY
<input type="checkbox"/> 9-Ball Singles						
Gold Division	9/3 (Fri)	Upper 50% of field	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
Silver Division	9/3 (Fri)	Lower 50% of field	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> 8-Ball Singles						
Gold Division	9/7 (Tue)	Upper 50% of field	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
Silver Division	9/7 (Tue)	Lower 50% of field	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-Ball Singles	9/10 (Fri)	All	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> League Manager	9/4 (Sat)	All	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A

1. All matches are played with the USA Pool League Handicap System powered by FargoRate.

2. Each entry includes admin & green fees. See the General Info section for a breakdown of those fees.

CUESPORTS INTERNATIONAL (CSI) DIVISIONS

Check-in for singles divisions is not required. However, it is your responsibility to know when and where you play!

Eligibility

- CSI divisions are open to male and female players rated 720 or lower at the time of registration.
- All players must be either league-qualified or a CSI member.
- League-Qualified: must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session during the 2020 calendar year; or...
 - Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2021 and the registration deadline of Aug 2, 2021
- CSI Member: a person who is not league-qualified but has a current CSI membership (\$40/year)

Individual Rating Increases

There is a 10-point individual rating cushion. If a person is rated 720 or lower at the time of registration but his or her rating naturally increases above 730, he or she will have the following options:

Option 1: Drop out of the division and receive a refund (minus admin & processing fees)

Option 2: Play and accept a one-game penalty in each match for every 25 points over 730

Example: A player had a rating of 717 at the time of registration but it naturally increases to 735 (5 pts. over the cushion), he will incur a one-game penalty in each match. If his rating naturally increases to 758 (28 pts. over the cushion), he will incur a two-game penalty in each match.

Divisions

CUESPORTS INTERNATIONAL SINGLES DIVISIONS	START DATE	MAX RATING	RACE	EARLY ENTRY ¹ (by June 28)	LATE ENTRY ¹ (June 29-Aug 23)	ON-SITE ¹ ENTRY
CSI Teams ²	9/3 (Fri)	5-player / 3,000	13	\$750	\$850	\$950
CSI 9-Ball Singles ³	9/6 (Mon)	720	7	\$175	\$200	\$225
CSI 10-Ball Singles ³	9/8 (Wed)	720	7	\$175	\$200	\$225
CSI 8-Ball Singles ³	9/10 (Fri)	720	7	\$175	\$200	\$225

1. Each entry includes admin & green fees. See the General Info section for a breakdown of these fees.

2. The on-site registration deadline is noon on the day before the start date.

3. The on-site registration deadline is 6pm on the day before the start date.

MINI-TOURNAMENTS

We anticipate more than 700 mini-tournaments to be held during the USA Pool League National Championships. Many different formats will be offered such as handicapped, non-handicapped, 8-ball, 9-ball, 10-ball, etc. Those wishing to participate should visit the Mini-Tournament desk in the Brasilia Ballroom (just across the hallway from the Pavilion Ballroom).

Eligibility

Must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:

- Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session during the 2020 calendar year; or...
- Played at least four (4) weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2021 and the registration deadline of Aug 2, 2021 or...
- Have a current CSI Membership (\$40/year) and pay a \$25 admin fee & \$25 green fee (if not registered in any other events).

NOTE: Some mini tournaments have specific rating, gender, league, and misc. requirements.