

PLAYER GUIDE

2020 USA POOL LEAGUE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



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NEW FOR THIS YEAR

New Dates (March 11-21, 2020)

The USA Pool League National Championships will now be held in an earlier and cooler time of year in Las Vegas as part of the CueSports International Expo. The feedback about this date change has been overwhelmingly positive and we are confident that you will enjoy Las Vegas much more in March than the previous July timeframe.

Original Player Change

An "original player" was previously defined as someone who has played at least (8) weeks with the team in the spring session. That definition is now changed to someone who has played **at least (8) weeks with the team in the final session of the calendar year** (typically the fall session).

Teams at the USA Pool League National Championships are still required to have a minimum of two (2) original players. However, original players are no longer required to play the first two sets of each match. Although they are not required to play the first two sets, at least two (2) sets of the lineup must include original players.

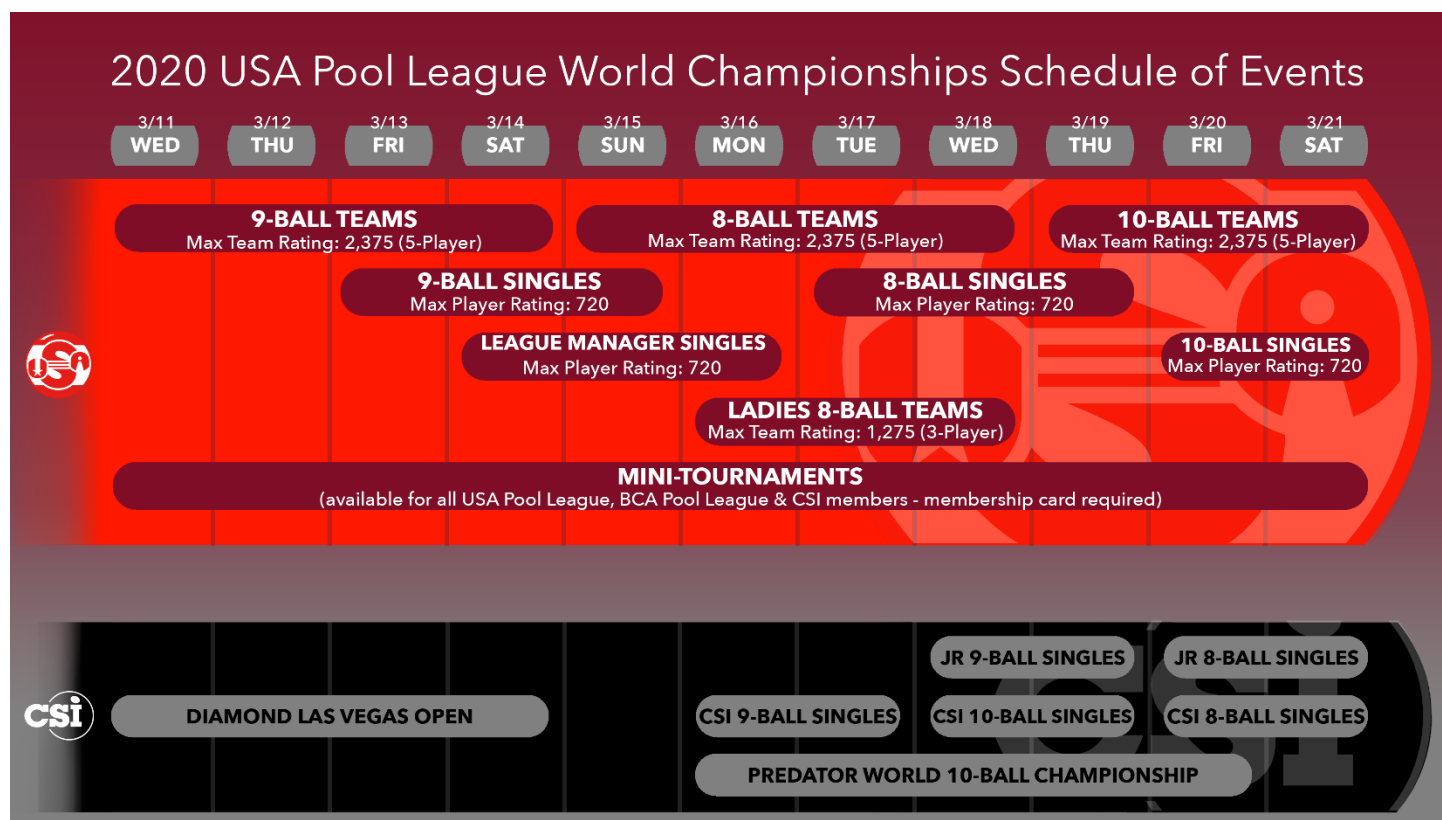
Players Must Remain Active

To participate in the 2020 USA Pool League National Championships, players must remain active members of the USA Pool League after December 31, 2019. To remain active and eligible, members must play at least two (2) weeks between January 1 and March 1, 2020.

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 were a huge success in 2019 and you will get to enjoy them again in 2020. They will be played on 9-ft Diamond pool tables in the Pavilion Ballroom of the Rio Convention Center and will be free to watch in person.

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 USA Pool League Tournament Regulations.

Important Dates

Jan 20:	Last day for early entry discount	Feb 21:	Last day for hotel discount & refund requests
Jan 27:	Last day for mailed entries & personal checks	Feb 24:	TBA names due
Feb 17:	Last day to register	Feb 28:	Last day for change requests

Refunds & Changes

Refund requests must be received in writing by email, fax, or postal mail by Feb 21, 2020 and will be processed after March 30, 2020. Admin fees are non-refundable and an additional \$20 processing fee applies to each entry refunded. Change requests must be received by Feb 28, 2020 and a \$10/player processing fee applies to each change.

Digital Membership Card & Valid Photo ID Required

All members are required to have their digital membership card and valid Government-issued photo ID and must 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 for 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 Feb 21, 2020 to receive the special group rate of \$88/\$145. **No resort fees. No parking fees.**

- Online Link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRCSX0>
- Phone: (888) 746-6955; Group Code: **SRCSX0** (processing charge may apply to phone reservations)

Dress Code

All events will follow Dress Code A (See the 2020 USA Pool League 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

Mistakes happen. Therefore, 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 eight (8) weeks of play requirement (discussed later) 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 USA Pool League 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
9-Ball Singles	9-Ball Teams, 8-Ball Teams	League Manager Singles
League Manager Singles	No other division	9-Ball Teams, 9-Ball Singles, 8-Ball Teams, Ladies 8-Ball Teams
8-Ball Teams	9-Ball Singles, 8-Ball Singles	League Manager Singles, Ladies 8-Ball 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 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

TEAMS

Team Check-In & Rosters

Team check-in is required and begins at 4 PM, March 10, 2020. The Team Captain or League Manager is responsible to check-in teams and obtain official team rosters. Teams must provide a copy of their roster to all opponents to confirm player ratings and to identify which players are original players. Team Captains are responsible for team rosters and there is a \$10 charge for reprinting them. The official roster and valid Government-issued photo ID of all players must be presented to all opposing teams and staff upon request.

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 be active members of a USA Pool League and play a minimum of eight (8) weeks in a single division during the 2019 calendar year (Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2019).
- Teams (mixed – men & ladies)
 - Must have 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.
 - Non-original players must have played eight (8) weeks with the same exact team that has entered the tournament in a single division during the 2019 calendar year (Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2019).
 - 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 three (3) USA Pool League qualified players with a maximum roster size of five (5) players.
 - Players must have played eight (8) weeks in one (1) session with any team. 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 eight (8) weeks with the team in the final session of the 2019 calendar year. 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 (by Jan 20)	LATE ENTRY (Jan 21-Feb 17)	ON-SITE ENTRY
9-Ball Teams	3/11 (Wed)	5-player / 2,375	Hdcp	\$625 ²	\$675 ²	N/A
8-Ball Teams	3/15 (Sun)	5-player / 2,375	Hdcp	\$625 ²	\$675 ²	N/A
Ladies 8-Ball Teams	3/16 (Mon)	3-player / 1,275	Hdcp	\$375 ³	\$405 ³	N/A
10-Ball Teams	3/19 (Thu)	5-player / 2,375	Hdcp	\$625 ²	\$675 ²	N/A

1. All matches are played with the USA Pool League Handicap System powered by FargoRate.
2. Each entry includes a \$25/player green fee and \$475 towards the prize fund. The remainder is an admin fee.
3. Each entry includes a \$25/player green fee and \$275 toward the prize fund. The remainder is an admin fee.

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 be active members of a USA Pool League and play a minimum of eight (8) weeks in a single division during the 2019 calendar year (Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2019).
- Players are only eligible to participate in singles events in the game in which they played the required weeks during the 2019 calendar year.
- 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.
- Junior Singles divisions do not require any type of membership or league play requirements.

8-Ball & 9-Ball Singles

8-Ball and 9-Ball Singles will 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.

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 Jan 20)	LATE ENTRY ² (Jan 21-Feb 17)	ON-SITE ENTRY
<input type="checkbox"/> 9-Ball Singles						
Gold Division	3/13 (Fri)	Upper 50% of field	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
Silver Division	3/13 (Fri)	Lower 50% of field	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> 8-Ball Singles						
Gold Division	3/17 (Tue)	Upper 50% of field	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
Silver Division	3/17 (Tue)	Lower 50% of field	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-Ball Singles						
Gold Division	3/20 (Fri)	All	Hdcp	\$150	\$175	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> League Manager	3/14 (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 a \$35 green fee and \$100 toward the prize fund. The remainder is an admin fee.

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 Singles 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: current member of a USA Pool League or BCA Pool League at the time of registration with a minimum of eight (8) weeks played in a single division session during the 2019 calendar year (Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2019).
 - CSI Member: a person who is not league-qualified but has a current CSI membership

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 Jan 20)	LATE ENTRY ¹ (Jan 21-Feb 17)	ON-SITE ² ENTRY
CSI 9-Ball Singles	3/16 (Mon)	720	7	\$160	\$185	\$210
CSI 10-Ball Singles	3/18 (Wed)	720	7	\$160	\$185	\$210
CSI 8-Ball Singles	3/20 (Fri)	720	7	\$160	\$185	\$210
Diamond Las Vegas Open ³	3/11 (Wed)	No limit	7	\$275	\$300	\$325

1. Each entry includes a \$35 green fee and an admin fee that varies based on when the entry is submitted. The early entry admin fee is \$15. If submitted Jan 21 – Feb 17, the admin fee increases by \$25.
2. The on-site registration deadline is 6pm on the day before the start date. If the entry is submitted on-site the admin fee increases by \$25.
3. Diamond Las Vegas Open Format:
 - a. 10-ball, race to 7 (9 in the final)
 - b. Limited to 128 players
 - c. Double elimination
 - d. Alternate break, rack your own

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

- All players must be active members of a USA Pool League or be a current CSI Member and pay a \$35 one-time green fee (if not registered in any other events).
- NOTE: Some mini-tournaments have specific rating, gender, league, and misc. requirements.