

PLAYER GUIDE



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ATLANTIC CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

HARRAH'S RESORT & CASINO - ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY



JAN 18 - 21, 2024



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HIGHLIGHTS

CSI Group Play Format for Teams – TEAMS GUARANTEED 4-5 MATCHES!

The team divisions will use the CSI Group Play tournament format. The CSI Group Play format is a two-stage tournament. Stage 1 is a group stage and Stage 2 is a single elimination final bracket. In Stage 1, teams are randomly drawn into 4-5 separate matches. Each match in Stage 1 consists of 15 total racks for 5-player teams, 9 total racks for 3-player teams, and will be handicapped using FargoRate. The top 30-40% of teams that perform the best advance to Stage 2. All matches in the final stage will also be handicapped using FargoRate.

Free Vegas Entries

The winning team of each team division with eight (8) or more teams will receive free entry into the 2024 BCA Pool League World Championships or USA Pool League National Championships (whichever is appropriate for the winning team). Visit www.playcsipool.com/free-entry for details and conditions.

Predator Apex Premier League Edition Tables

The event will be played on the all new 7-foot Predator Apex Premier League Edition tables, which have been meticulously designed by CSI and Predator for performance, reliability, and fun. It features 4.5 inch perfectly flush pockets, ultra-black matte fingerprint resistant finish, pocket sound dampening, tracks that prevent chalk from getting stuck in the table, and a ball return system designed to be quiet and keep the balls clean. Its 25mm one-piece pure Brazilian slate, overbuilt frame, and composite legs, each capable of supporting the entire weight of the table, boasts strength and stability. Visit www.playcsipool.com/2022-news to learn more about the tables.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2024 CSI LEAGUES ATLANTIC CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS





	THU 1/18	FRI 1/19	SAT 1/20	SUN 1/21
CHOOSE ONE	8-BALL SINGLES <small>Platinum & Gold Divisions</small>	CHOOSE ONE	8-BALL TEAMS <small>5-Player CSI Group Play...powered by FargoRate</small>	
	LADIES 8-BALL SINGLES		LADIES 8-BALL TEAMS <small>3-Player CSI Group Play...powered by FargoRate</small>	
	2ND CHANCE 8-BALL SINGLES		2ND CHANCE 8-BALL TEAMS	
	MINI-TOURNAMENTS <small>(based on table availability & demand)</small>			

GENERAL INFO

The purpose of this document is to provide the necessary information about the event and its divisions. This document is not intended to convey the procedures that must be followed at the event.

Important Dates

Dec 4: Last day for early entry discount

Dec 15: Last day for hotel discount

Dec 18: Last day for mailed entries & personal checks

Jan 8: Last day for refund & change requests

Jan 8: Last day to register online

Jan 18: Event begins

Refunds & Changes

Refund requests must be received in writing by email or postal mail by Jan 8, 2024 and will be processed after Jan 30, 2024. Admin fees are non-refundable and an additional \$20 processing fee applies to each entry refunded. Change requests must also be received by Jan 8, 2024 and a \$20/player processing fee applies to each change.

Safety Rules

Although it is impossible to predict exactly what restrictions may be in place at the time of the event, players should be prepared to adhere to all safety rules & regulations put into place by CueSports International, Harrah's Resort & Casino, New Jersey state government or local ordinances. Face coverings, social distancing and temperature checks are just a few examples of possible safety precautions that could be in effect. Players accept this when they register and refusal to follow safety rules and regulations is not sufficient justification for a refund.

On-Site Registrations

On-site registrations for second chance divisions or mini-tournaments must be cash only in US currency.

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 Dec 4)	LATE ENTRY (Dec 5-Jan 8)	ON-SITE ENTRY
SINGLES	\$20	additional \$20	N/A
TEAMS	\$10/core player	additional \$10/core player	N/A

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 Dec 4)	LATE ENTRY (Dec 5-Jan 8)	ON-SITE ENTRY
SINGLES	\$20	\$20	N/A
TEAMS	\$10/core player	\$10/core player	N/A

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.

Dress Code

All events will follow Dress Code C unless otherwise specified. Team shirts are encouraged but not required.

Hotel Discount – Harrah's Casino & Resort

Book by Dec 15, 2023 to receive the special group rate of \$69 / \$149 + resort fee.

Online: www.playcspool.com/2024-atlantic-city-championships

FargoRate

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 CueSports International (CSI).

Example: John has a Fargo Rating of 593 based on just 50 games. He was assigned a starter rating of 560 by CSI. 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 CSI 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.**

REGISTER EARLY: You may register at any time. There is no need to wait until you actually have an active membership or reach the minimum weeks of play requirement (discussed later) to register. Players who are not current members but intend to play in a BCA Pool League or USA Pool League later in the year may register now by submitting a paper or PDF entry form which can be downloaded from the [official webpage](#). These registrations will be processed and reviewed at a later date to verify membership status and weeks played.

Rating Penalties

Each division has a team and/or individual rating cushion to allow for natural rating increases after registration. If a rating naturally increases beyond the cushion, game penalties may be applied. If a player or team has incurred a game penalty, the opponent will race to one game less. If both teams in a match have been penalized, the penalty in that match will be the difference between the two penalties. For example, if Team A has a one-game penalty and Team B has a two-game penalty, Team B will incur a one-game penalty in that match. If both teams have a one-game penalty, there will be no penalty. **Please Note:** The rating cushion applies only to ratings that have naturally increased as a result of additional FargoRate data. A change or correction of a starter rating is not a natural increase.

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 CSI prior to the registration deadline.

Ladies Events

While ladies' divisions are offered, FargoRate 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 all divisions.

Verify Your Registration!

The complete list of players can be found near the bottom of the official event webpage. All upcoming events can be found at www.playcspool.com/events.

If you have already registered for the event, please verify that your name appears in the "Awesome Participants" list in every division for which you registered. Technical glitches can happen and **it's your responsibility to confirm your registration(s)** prior to the event. If you are not on the participant list and you fail to notify us at least one week prior to the event, we may not be able to accommodate you. If your name does appear on the list, it's a good idea to take a screenshot and keep it with you as back-up if needed. It is not helpful to show up at the Tournament Desk and simply say that your name was previously on the list.

Start Times & Format

Divisions may begin as early as the times listed in the sections below. 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. Singles divisions are true double elimination format unless otherwise noted.

Plan Your Travel Carefully

We encourage you to allow plenty of time before, during, and after the event for travel. CSI is not responsible for travel delays, 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 encouraged 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 CSI 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, CSI is only able to schedule around some of the 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...
8-Ball Singles	---	Ladies 8-Ball Singles, Mini-Tournaments
Ladies 8-Ball Singles	---	8-Ball Singles, Mini-Tournaments
8-Ball Teams	---	Ladies 8-Ball Teams, Mini-Tournaments
Ladies 8-Ball Teams	---	8-Ball Teams, Mini-Tournaments

Payouts

Payouts may be made at specific scheduled times each day so please do not expect your payout immediately after you win or are eliminated. Payouts may be made by check, or electronically via PayPal or Venmo, in U.S. currency. CueSports International has sole discretion in deciding the payout method and you accept this when you register. To receive a payout, you must first present Government-issued photo ID and legibly complete the applicable tax form(s) provided by CueSports International. If payouts are made electronically, you must provide a valid PayPal or Venmo username (usually an email or phone number). If payouts are made by check, they are valid for 90 days from the date of issue. **DO NOT LOSE YOUR CHECK.** Lost checks and checks not cashed within the 90-day period will not be reissued.

Team Payouts

One payment may be made to one person for the entire team payout. The person receiving the payout must present Government-issued photo ID and complete the applicable tax form(s) provided by CueSports International. The person receiving the payout should also document the payouts he or she distributes to other teammates for tax purposes.

Player Agreement

These terms set forth the legally binding rules for participation in the event. By registering, you agree to be bound by all terms and conditions set forth by CueSports International (CSI). If you are under the age of 18, you agree to obtain the consent of your legal guardian to participate under these terms.

You acknowledge that you have read and completely understand the latest edition of the Player Guide, Entry Form, Tournament Regulations and/or all rules and regulations and you will check for the latest edition of all documents just prior to the event start date. You agree to abide by all rules & regulations implemented by CueSports International (CSI). CSI reserves the following rights and responsibilities: determine a player's eligibility, refuse entry to anyone for any reason, change field sizes, adjust ratings, display names and ratings online, change schedules & payouts based on, but not limited to, field sizes, inclement weather, acts of God, war, or terrorism.

You understand that there is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other illnesses when you participate in any event where people are gathered. Although it is impossible to predict exactly what safety restrictions may be in place at the time of the event, you agree to adhere to all safety rules & regulations put into place by CueSports International, Harrah's Resort & Casino, New Jersey state government or local ordinances. Face coverings, social distancing and temperature checks are just a few examples of possible safety precautions that could be in effect. You accept this when you register and refusal to follow safety rules and regulations is not justification for a refund.

You understand that your participation in this event is completely voluntary. CSI and all representatives, agents, sponsors and affiliates are released and to be held harmless of and from any injury, illness, losses, damages, liability or expenses of any kind incurred by me, my heirs or personal representatives either caused or alleged to be caused during or surrounding this event. Maximum liability to CSI, if any, shall be limited to reimbursement of the entry fee paid.

Disqualification from any CSI event, for any reason, shall result in forfeiture of any prize money won, and possible suspension from future CSI produced events.

CSI may also use your photograph, image, likeness or name for information, reporting or promotional purposes via print, video and other media without limitation or compensation of any kind. By participating, you further release all media and appearance rights to CSI for the production of televised matches, recorded or broadcast at the event and for all photographic images taken at the event. By registering, you agree that CSI may also add your email address to its email list and send you periodic emails at its sole discretion.

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 have been members of a BCA Pool League or USA Pool League **during the 2023 league year** (which ends Dec 31, 2023) and played a minimum of four (4) full scheduled weeks in a single division session during the 2023 calendar year.
 - Your BCA Pool League membership status can be checked at www.playcsipool.com/bcapl-membership-lookup
 - Your USA Pool League membership status can be checked at www.playcsipool.com/usapl-membership-lookup
- Ladies divisions are open to ladies only. All other divisions are open to male and female players.
- For Ladies divisions, no lady may be rated higher than 660 at the time of registration. For all other divisions, no person may be rated higher than 720 at the time of registration.

Individual Rating Increases

There is a 10-point individual rating cushion. If a person is rated 720 (660 for Ladies Singles) or lower at the time of registration, but his or her rating naturally increases above 730 (670 for Ladies Singles), he or she has the following options:

- Option 1: Move to another division (if possible) and pay any difference in entry fees
- Option 2: Play and accept a one-game penalty in each match for every 25 points over 730 (or 670)

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

Divisions

DIVISIONS	START ¹	SPLIT ² (approx)	RACE ³	EARLY ENTRY ⁴ (by Dec 4)	LATE ENTRY ⁴ (Dec 5-Jan 8)	ON-SITE ENTRY
8-Ball Singles ^{6,7}						
Platinum Division	1/18 (Thu) 9am	Upper 50%	R5 Hot	\$100	\$120	N/A
Gold Division	1/18 (Thu) 9am	Lower 50%	R5 Hot	\$100	\$120	N/A
Ladies 8-Ball Singles ^{5,6,7}	1/18 (Thu) 9am	---	R4 Hot	\$100	\$120	N/A
2nd Chance 8-Ball Singles ⁸	1/19 (TBA)	All	TBD	N/A	N/A	TBA

1. Start times shown are the earliest possible start times. Actual start times may be later. Check the brackets or ask the Tournament Director for actual times.
2. After registration ends, the field will be split into multiple divisions based on players' Fargo ratings, approximate percentages shown and the bracket sizes. The percentages shown are approximations and are subject to change based on the skill levels of the participants and bracket sizes.
3. Races are handicapped based on the FargoRate Rx Hot race chart.

4. Each entry includes admin & green fees. See the General Info section for a breakdown of those fees.
5. Open to ladies only. All ladies must be rated 660 or lower at the time of registration.
6. If 8-Ball Singles or Ladies 8-Ball Singles does not conclude before the start of 8-Ball Teams or Ladies 8-Ball Teams, it may be necessary to delay the remaining 8-Ball Singles matches as some of the remaining players may be competing in both divisions. Therefore, the conclusion of 8-Ball Singles may be delayed.
7. \$750 added based on 64 players.
8. Players who have been eliminated from 8-Ball Singles or Ladies 8-Ball Singles may register for 2nd Chance 8-Ball Singles at the Tournament Desk (date & time TBA). The format will be single elimination and handicapped by FargoRate. Other details will be announced at the event.

TEAMS (CSI Group Play format)

Team Check-In & Rosters

Team check-in is required and begins at noon on Friday, Jan 19. The Team Captain or League Operator must check in at the Tournament Desk prior to the start of the division. The official roster and valid Government-issued photo ID of all players must be presented to all opposing teams and event staff upon request.

Team Shirts

Team shirts are encouraged but not required.

Eligibility

- All players must have been members of a BCA Pool League or USA Pool League **during the 2023 league year** (which ends Dec 31, 2023) and played a minimum of four (4) full scheduled weeks in a single division session during the 2023 calendar year.
 - o Your BCA Pool League membership status can be checked at www.playcsipool.com/bcapl-membership-lookup
 - o Your USA Pool League membership status can be checked at www.playcsipool.com/usapl-membership-lookup
- For Ladies Teams, no lady may be rated higher than 660 at the time of registration. For all other divisions, no person (male or female) may be rated higher than 720 at the time of registration.
- Players may not be on more than one team roster.

Core Roster & Substitutions

The "core" roster is used to determine the total team rating. Players designated as substitutes may not replace a lower-rated core player during competition. **Once the deadline for change requests has passed, only subs can be added to the roster. There can be no changes to the "core" roster after the change request deadline.**

Team Rating Increases

There is a 10-point per core player team rating cushion. If a team is eligible for a division at the time of registration but one or more members' ratings naturally increase to push them over the limit plus the cushion, it has the following options:

- Option 1: Move up into the next division (if possible) and pay any difference in entry fees
- Option 2: Replace one or more players to get back within the division limit (must still meet other eligibility requirements)
- Option 3: Play and accept a one-game penalty in each match for every 50 points over the cushion

Example: A 5-player team is below the 2,750 limit at the time of registration but their team rating naturally increases to 2,843 (43 pts. over the cushion). They will incur a one-game penalty in each match. If their rating naturally increases to 2,877 (77 pts. over the cushion), they will incur a two-game penalty in each match.

Individual Rating Increases

There is a 10-point individual rating cushion. If a person (male or female) is rated 720 or lower, or a female is rated 660 or lower in Ladies Teams, at the time of registration, but his or her rating naturally increases above 730 (Teams) or 670 (Ladies Teams), the team has the following options:

- Option 1: Replace the player (must still meet other eligibility requirements)
- Option 2: Play and accept a one-game penalty in each match for every 25 points over the cushion (730 or 670)

Example: A male has a rating of 716 at the time of registration but it naturally increases to 735 (5 pts. over the cushion), the team will incur a one-game penalty in each match. If the same person's rating increases to 758 (28 pts. over the cushion), the team will incur a two-game penalty in each match.

Format (CSI Group Play...powered by FargoRate)

The team divisions use the CSI Group Play format consisting of a **Stage 1 – Group Stage** and a **Stage 2 – Single Elimination Final Bracket**. See below for the specific details of each stage.

Stage 1 – Group Stage	Stage 2 – Single Elimination Final Bracket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 5-Player Teams (8-Ball) / 3-Player Teams (Ladies 8-Ball & 9-Ball) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each team plays 5 matches ¹ 2. 15 total racks per match for 8-Ball Teams 3. 9 total racks per match for Ladies 8-Ball Teams ❑ Handicapped by the FargoRate League Calculator ❑ Top 30-40% teams advance to Stage 2 ❑ A number of wild card teams, based on the field size, will also be randomly selected to advance to the Stage 2 bracket ² ❑ Team ranking criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Match Win % ³ 2. Avg. Performance Margin % ⁴ 3. Strength of Schedule (Avg. Rating of Opposing Teams' Core Roster) ⁵ 4. Shootout ⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Teams in the top 30-40%, plus the wild card teams, will advance to the Stage 2 single elimination bracket ❑ Stage 2 teams are seeded by the Stage 1 criteria ❑ Races <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8-Ball Teams: FargoRate R11 Hot ○ Ladies 8-Ball Teams: FargoRate R7 Hot

1. Excluding factors beyond the control of CueSports International such as forfeits, dropout teams, no-shows, byes, etc.
2. Every team has a chance of advancing until the very end of Stage 1.
3. The number of matches won divided by the number of matches played.
4. The Performance Margin is a comparison of what a team is expected to score vs what it actually scores in each match.
5. The average Fargo rating of the opposing teams' core roster. For example, if two teams have the same match win % and the same average performance margin, the team that played stronger teams, on average, will be ranked higher.
6. The cue ball is placed behind the head string and each core player, or eligible sub, for each team shoots alternating spot shots. The team with the most shots legally pocketed after all players have taken a shot, wins the shootout. If tied after all players have taken one shot, it is sudden death.

Divisions

DIVISIONS	START ¹	PLAYERS ² (core/sub)	MAX RATING	SPLIT ³ (approx)	STAGE 1 LENGTH ⁴	STAGE 2 RACE ⁵	EARLY ENTRY ⁶ (by Dec 4)	LATE ENTRY ⁶ (Dec 5-Jan 8)	ON-SITE ENTRY
Platinum ⁷	1/19 (Fri) 6pm	5/2	2,750	Upper 50%	15 racks	R11 Hot	\$400	\$450	N/A
Gold ⁷	1/19 (Fri) 6pm	5/2	2,750	Lower 50%	15 racks	R11 Hot	\$400	\$450	N/A
Ladies ⁸	1/19 (Fri) 6pm	3/1	1,350	All	9 racks	R7 Hot	\$240	\$270	N/A
2nd Chance ⁹	1/21 (Sun) 9am	5/2	2,750	All	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBA

1. Start times shown are the earliest possible start times. Actual start times may be later. Check the brackets or ask the Tournament Director for actual times.
2. The first number is the number of players on the core roster. The second number is the maximum number of substitutes on the roster.
3. If the total number of teams does not reach 60, all teams may compete in one division.
4. The field of teams will be divided into two (2) divisions based on the combined Fargo ratings of the core roster and the approximate percentages shown. The Ladies division will not be split and all teams will play in the same division. Stage 1 is the group stage. If possible, all teams will play five (5) or four (4) matches, each consisting of 15 games (5-player teams) or 9 games (3-player teams). All matches in the group stage will be handicapped using FargoRate.
5. The top 30-40% of teams will advance to Stage 2. All matches in Stage 2 will be handicapped by FargoRate.
6. Each entry includes admin & green fees. See the General Info section for a breakdown of these fees.
7. \$1,000 added based on 32 teams.
8. \$750 added based on 32 teams.
9. Teams that do not advance to Stage 2 may register for 2nd Chance 8-Ball Teams at the Tournament Desk immediately after Stage 2 teams are announced. The format will be single elimination and handicapped by FargoRate. The number of divisions, races, and entry fees will be based on the number of teams and will be announced at the event.

MINI-TOURNAMENTS

We will conduct mini-tournaments beginning on the first day of the event and will conduct as many as demand dictates. 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 Tournament Desk.

Eligibility

- Must have been a member of a BCA Pool League or USA Pool League **during the 2023 league year** (which ends Dec 31, 2023) and played a minimum of four (4) full scheduled weeks/matches in a single division session during the 2023 calendar year, **or**
- 2023 CSI Member (\$40/year) Please note that a \$20 green fee is due at the time of sign up.

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