PLAYER GUIDE

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Table of Contents

HIGHLIGHTS ***2***
CSI Group Play Format for Teams – TEAMS GUARANTEED 5 MATCHES* 2
Three 8-Ball Team Divisions 2
Three 8-Ball Singles Divisions 2
Singles & Scotch Doubles Match Times Extended to Two (2) Hours 2
Format Change for Singles & Scotch Doubles Divisions 2
Second Chance Divisions 2
Mini-Tournaments 2
Free Vegas Entries 2
Predator Apex Premier League Edition Tables 2

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ***3***

GENERAL INFO ***3***
Important Dates 3
Refunds & Changes 3
Safety Rules 3
On-Site Registrations 3
Event Fees 4
Digital Membership Card & Valid Photo ID Required 4
Dress Code 4
Hotel Discount 4
FargoRate 4
Start Times & Format 5
Match Conflicts 5
Payouts 6
Player Agreement 6

SCOTCH DOUBLES ***7***
Eligibility 7
Scotch Doubles Divisions (1,100 max team rating / teams may be male/male, male/female, female/female) 7

SINGLES ***8***
Eligibility 8
Singles Divisions 8

TEAMS (CSI Group Play format) ***9***
Team Check-In & Rosters 9
Eligibility 9
Core Roster & Substitutions 9
Format (CSI Group Play…*powered by FargoRate*) 10
CSI Group Play Stage 2 Advancement Table 10
Team Divisions 11

MINI-TOURNAMENTS ***11***
Eligibility 11

HIGHLIGHTS

CSI Group Play Format for Teams – TEAMS GUARANTEED 5 MATCHES*

The team divisions will use the CSI Group Play format. Stage 1 is a group stage and Stage 2 is a single elimination final bracket. In Stage 1, teams are randomly drawn into 5 separate matches,* each consisting of 15 racks for 5-player teams or 9 racks for 3-player teams. The teams that perform the best advance to Stage 2. All matches are handicapped using FargoRate. See the "Teams" section of this Player Guide for more detail.

** Excluding factors beyond the control of the CueSports International such as forfeits, drop-out teams, no-shows, byes, etc.*

Three 8-Ball Team Divisions

In the past, the field of 8-Ball Teams was split into two (2) divisions. This year, if the total number of 8-Ball Teams reaches at least 150 teams, the field will be split into three (3) divisions (Platinum, Gold, & Silver).

Three 8-Ball Singles Divisions

In the past, the field of 8-Ball Singles was split into two (2) divisions. This year, if the total number of 8-Ball Singles reaches at least 180 players, the field will be split into three (3) divisions (Platinum, Gold, & Silver).

Singles & Scotch Doubles Match Times Extended to Two (2) Hours

Singles and doubles matches have previously been scheduled for 90 minutes. While most matches complete within 90-minutes, many do not. When this happens, subsequent matches, and ultimately the entire tournament, gets delayed. Therefore, we are now scheduling singles and doubles matches for two (2) hours to allow sufficient time and provide a better experience for everyone. For any matches that still do not complete on time, CSI delayed progress rules, which can be found in the CSI Tournament Regulations, may be enforced.

Format Change for Singles & Scotch Doubles Divisions

We want everyone to have the opportunity to play in as many divisions as possible. To do that efficiently, it is important to complete one division before the next one begins. The end of a double elimination bracket takes too much time to complete, causes match conflicts, delays, and frustration for everyone. For example, when there are only four people remaining, it can take eight more hours to finish. To accommodate growth and still provide everyone the opportunity to play in multiple divisions, the format of all singles and doubles divisions will be slightly modified. The format will be double elimination until the prize money rounds and then switch to single elimination.

Second Chance Divisions

Second chance divisions will be offered for most divisions. The start times, format, entry fee, and other details will be announced at the event.

Mini-Tournaments

Mini-tournaments will be conducted throughout the event based on demand and table availability.

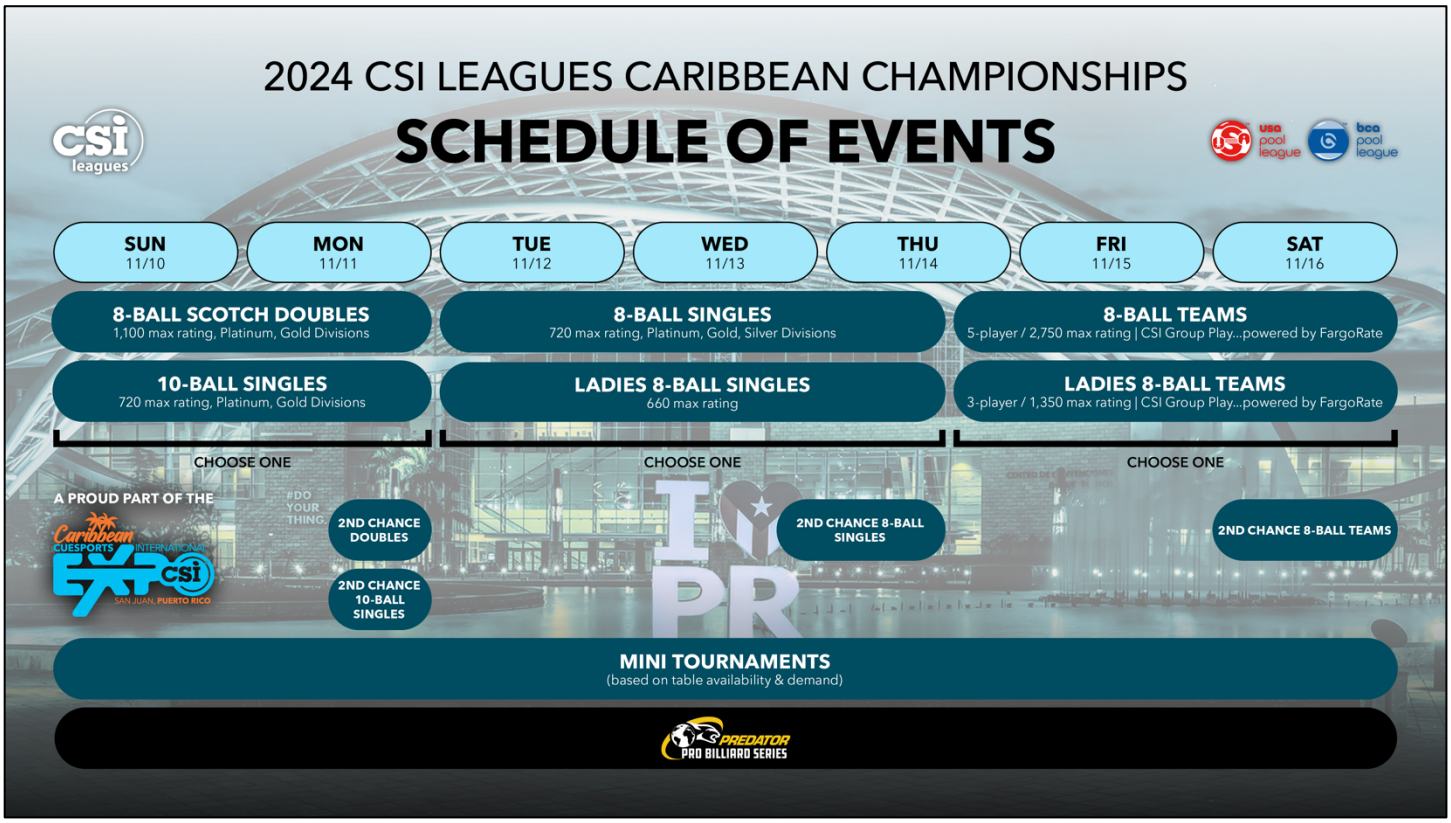
Free Vegas Entries

The winning team of each team division with eight (8) or more teams will receive free entry into the 2025 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. No additional exceptions can be made to the requirements listed on the Free Vegas Entries Program webpage.

Predator Apex Premier League Edition Tables

The event will feature the 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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



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

Sep 30: Last day for early entry discount
Oct 14: Last day for mailed entries & personal checks
Oct 31: Last day to register
Oct 31: Last day for refund & change requests
Nov 10: Event begins

Refunds & Changes

Refund requests must be received in writing by email or postal mail by Oct 31, 2024, and will be processed after Oct 31, 2024. Admin fees are non-refundable and an additional $20 processing fee applies to each entry refunded. Change requests must also be received by Oct 31, 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, the Puerto Rico Convention Center, Puerto Rico Government, San Juan 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 must be cash in US currency. Please note that on-site registrations are not accepted for any of the main divisions.

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 Sep 30)	LATE ENTRY (Oct 1-Oct 31)	ON-SITE ENTRY
SINGLES	$20	additional $20	N/A
SCOTCH DOUBLES	$10/player	additional $10/player	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 Sep 30)	LATE ENTRY (Oct 1-Oct 31)	ON-SITE ENTRY
SINGLES	$20	$20	N/A
SCOTCH DOUBLES	$10/player	$10/player	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. 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 CSI Dress Code C unless otherwise specified. Team shirts are encouraged but not required.

Hotel Discount

Please visit www.playcsipool.com/events for hotel discounts and reservation links.

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 x 25%) + (560 x 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.playcsipool.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 Desk.

Plan Your Travel Carefully

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 the day before your division(s) begin and leave 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 Desk. 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 Scotch Doubles	8-Ball Singles or Ladies 8-Ball Singles	10-Ball Singles, Mini-Tournaments
10-Ball Singles	8-Ball Singles or Ladies 8-Ball Singles	8-Ball Scotch Doubles, Mini-Tournaments
8-Ball Singles	8-Ball Scotch Doubles or 10-Ball Singles	Ladies 8-Ball Singles, Mini-Tournaments
Ladies 8-Ball Singles	8-Ball Scotch Doubles or 10-Ball Singles	8-Ball Singles, Mini-Tournaments
8-Ball Teams	No other division	Ladies 8-Ball Teams, Mini-Tournaments
Ladies 8-Ball Teams	No other division	8-Ball Teams, Mini-Tournaments

Payouts

Payouts will be made electronically. To receive a payout, you must provide a valid email address. You will then receive an email, usually within 24 hours, from our secure third-party partner (Payment Labs). Follow the onboarding instructions to create an account and complete the required tax information. You will then be able to monitor the delivery status of your payout. Payouts are usually received 24-48 hours after you complete all required information. Payouts may be claimed up to 90 days beyond the last day of the event. Payouts not claimed within the 90-day period will not be processed.

Team Payouts

One (1) payment will be made to one (1) person for the entire team payout. The person receiving the payment should document the prize money he or she distributes to others 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, adjust races, 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, the Puerto Rico Convention Center, Puerto Rico Government, San Juan 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 to produce 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.

SCOTCH DOUBLES

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

Eligibility

- Teams may consist of male/male, male/female or female/female.
- Both teammates must have a 2024 BCA Pool League or USA Pool League membership and play a minimum of four (4) full scheduled weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2024, and the registration deadline.
  - 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
- No person (male or female) may be rated higher than 720 at the time of registration.

Team Rating Increases

There is a 20-point team rating cushion. If a team is eligible for a specific 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: Replace one (1) player to get back within the division limit (must still meet all other eligibility requirements)
Option 2: Play and accept a one-game penalty in each match for every 50 points over the cushion

Example: A Scotch Doubles team is below the 1,100 limit at the time of registration but their rating naturally increases to 1,118 (18 pts. over the limit) – there is no penalty in the match because it did not exceed the 20-point team rating cushion. If their rating naturally increases to 1,152 (32 pts. over the cushion), they will incur a one-game penalty in each match.

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 over the limit plus the cushion, the team has the following options:

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

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

Scotch Doubles Divisions (1,100 max team rating / teams may be male/male, male/female, female/female)

DIVISIONS	START [1]	MAX RATING	RACE [2]	EARLY ENTRY [3] (by Sep 30)	LATE ENTRY [3] (Oct 1-Oct 31)
8-Ball Scotch Doubles [4]					
Platinum Division	11/10 (Sun) 9am	1,100	R4 Hot	$120	$140
Gold Division	11/10 (Sun) 9am	1,000	R4 Hot	$120	$140
Second Chance 8-Ball Scotch Doubles [5]	11/11 (Mon) TBD	N/A	TBD	N/A	N/A

1. Start times shown are the earliest possible start times. Actual start times may be later. Check the brackets or ask the Tournament Desk for actual times.
2. Races are handicapped based on FargoRate.
3. Each entry includes admin & green fees. See the General Info section for a breakdown of those fees.
4. If Scotch Doubles does not conclude before the start of 8-Ball Singles, it may be necessary to delay the remaining Scotch Doubles matches as some of the remaining players may be competing in both divisions. Therefore, the conclusion of Scotch Doubles may be delayed.
5. Teams that have been eliminated may register for Second Chance Scotch Doubles at the Tournament Desk. The format will be single elimination and handicapped by FargoRate. All other details will be announced at the event.

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 a 2024 BCA Pool League or USA Pool League membership and play a minimum of four (4) full scheduled weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2024, and the registration deadline.
  - 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.

Singles Divisions

DIVISIONS	START [1]	SPLIT [2] (approx)	RACE [3]	EARLY ENTRY [4] (by Sep 30)	LATE ENTRY [4] (Oct 1-Oct 31)
10-Ball Singles [5, 6]					
Platinum Division	11/10 (Sun) 9am	Upper 1/2	R5 Hot	$100	$120
Gold Division	11/10 (Sun) 9am	Lower 1/2	R5 Hot	$100	$120
8-Ball Singles [7]					
Platinum Division	11/12 (Tue) 9am	Upper 1/3	R5 Hot	$100	$120
Gold Division	11/12 (Tue) 9am	Middle 1/3	R5 Hot	$100	$120
Silver Division	11/12 (Tue) 9am	Lower 1/3	R5 Hot	$100	$120
Ladies 8-Ball Singles [8]	11/12 (Tue) 9am	All	R4 Hot	$100	$120
Second Chance 10-Ball Singles [9]	11/11 (Mon) TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A
Second Chance 8-Ball Singles [10]	11/13 (Wed) TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A

1. Start times shown are the earliest possible start times. Actual start times may be later. Check the brackets or ask the Tournament Desk 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 indicated FargoRate race chart.
4. Each entry includes admin & green fees. See the General Info section for a breakdown of those fees.
5. If there are at least 120 players registered for 10-Ball Singles, the field will be split into three (2) divisions as shown. If there are less than 120 players registered, the field will not be split.
6. If 10-Ball Singles does not conclude before the start of 8-Ball Singles, it may be necessary to delay the remaining 10-Ball Singles matches as some of the remaining players may be competing in both divisions. Therefore, the conclusion of 10-Ball Singles may be delayed.
7. If there are at least 180 players registered for 8-Ball Singles, the field will be split into three (3) divisions as shown. If there are less than 180 players registered, the field will be split into two (2) divisions.
8. Open to ladies only. All ladies must be rated 660 or lower at the time of registration.
9. Players who have been eliminated from any of the 10-Ball Singles divisions may register for Second Chance 10-Ball Singles at the Tournament Desk. The format will be single elimination and handicapped by FargoRate. All other details will be announced at the event.
10. Players who have been eliminated from any of the 8-Ball Singles divisions may register for Second Chance 8-Ball Singles at the Tournament Desk. The format will be single elimination and handicapped by FargoRate. All 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 Thursday, Nov 14. The Team Captain or League Operator must check in at the Tournament Desk prior to the start of the division and obtain an official team roster. Emergency roster changes must be requested in person by 3pm, Thursday, Nov 14, and final league standings and/or other documents may be required. Emergency roster changes are limited to adding substitutes only and may not result in a team rating change. 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 Captains are responsible for team rosters and there is a $10 charge for reprinting them.

Team Shirts

Team shirts are encouraged but not required.

Eligibility

- All players must have a 2024 BCA Pool League or USA Pool League membership and play a minimum of four (4) full scheduled weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2024, and the registration deadline.
    - 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
- 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.

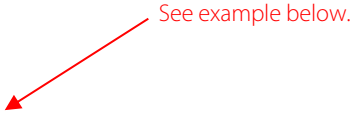
Stage 1 – Group Stage	Stage 2 – Single Elimination Final Bracket
• 5-Player Teams (8-Ball Teams) • 3-Player Teams (Ladies 8-Ball Teams) • Each team is scheduled for 5 matches* consisting of 15 racks (8-Ball Teams) & 9 racks (Ladies 8-Ball Teams) each. • All matches are handicapped by FargoRate [1] • Approximately 50% of the field will be eliminated at the conclusion of Stage 1 and the other 50% will advance to Stage 2. • Team ranking criteria: – 1st Criteria: Match Win % [3] – 2nd Criteria: Avg. Performance Margin [4] – 3rd Criteria: Strength of Schedule [5] – 4th Criteria: Shootout [6]	• Teams advance to the Stage 2 single elimination bracket based on the CSI Group Play Stage 2 Advancement Table below. **NOTE: the goal is to advance 50%, but no more than 50%, of the field into Stage 2.** • Wild card teams will be randomly selected. [2] • The Stage 2 bracket can, and often will, have some number of byes. Teams with higher rankings from Stage 1 will receive any available Stage 2 byes first. • Stage 2 teams are seeded in the Stage 2 bracket by their Stage 1 ranking. • Stage 2 Races: – 8-Ball Teams: R11 Hot – Ladies 8-Ball Teams: R7 Hot

1. The FargoRate League Calculator can be found at http://leaguecalc.fargorate.com. Enter the Fargo ratings of each player on both teams, click the blue button until "1 POINTS" is displayed, enter "3" into the field for "Number of games a player plays per round (or per match if handicapping matches)," and click the "CALCULATE" button. The result will be the handicap per match.
2. Teams that forfeit any Stage 1 match are not eligible to be selected as a wild card team for Stage 2.
3. Each match is handicapped by FargoRate. If a match ends in a tie score, each team receives 0.5 win points.
4. If two or more teams have the same win/loss record, the team that has a higher average performance margin will be ranked higher. The performance margin is a comparison of what a team is expected to score vs what it actually scores in each match. Winning more racks increases your team's performance margin.
5. Strength of schedule is the average rating of opposing teams' core rosters. If two or more teams have the same match win % and the same average performance margin, the team(s) with the larger strength of schedule 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 shot, it is sudden death.

** Excluding factors beyond the control of the CueSports International such as forfeits, drop-out teams, no-shows, byes, etc. If a team receives a forfeit, they receive a match win (1.0 match win points). Their other stats are unaffected.*

CSI Group Play Stage 2 Advancement Table

TOTAL # TEAMS IN DIVISION	# TEAMS TO STAGE 2 (50% max) [1]	# WILD CARD TEAMS (1 min / 7% max) [2]	STAGE 2 BRACKET SIZE (single elim)	# TEAM PAYOUTS (25% max)
10-17	5-8	1	8	2 or 4
18-33	6-16	1	16	4 or 8
34-65	17-32	1-2	32	8 or 16
66-129	33-64	2-4	64	16 or 32
130-257	65-128	4-8	128	32 or 64
258-513	129-256	9-17	256	64 or 128



1. This is the range of the total number of teams that will advance to Stage 2. No more than 50% of the field will advance to Stage 2.
2. This is the number of wild card teams that will be randomly selected for Stage 2. It is a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of 7% of the total number of Stage 2 teams. Teams that have forfeited any Stage 1 match are not eligible to be selected.

Example: There are 92 teams in a division. Refer to the row that contains 92 in the first column (66-129). The table shows that the Stage 2 bracket will be a 64-team bracket. Because a max of 50% of teams advance, 46 teams will advance to Stage 2, Because a maximum of 7% of those 46 teams will be random wild cards, there will be three (3) random wild card teams and 43 teams based on performance. The top 16 teams will earn prize money.

- **Total Teams to Stage 2:** 92 total teams x 50% = 46 teams
- **Wild Card Teams:** 46 teams x 7% = 3.22. Since 7% is the maximum, this rounds down to 3 wild card teams.
- **Teams by Performance:** 46 total teams – 3 wild card teams = 43 teams by performance
- **Teams to Win Prize Money:** 92 total teams x 25% = 23. Because bracket sizes are 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, etc., This rounds down to 16 teams.

Team Divisions

DIVISIONS	START [1]	PLAYERS [2] (core/sub)	MAX RATING	SPLIT (approx)	STAGE 1 LENGTH	STAGE 2 RACE	EARLY ENTRY [3] (by Sep 30)	LATE ENTRY [3] (Oct 1-Oct 31)
8-Ball Teams [4]								
Platinum Division	11/14 (Thu) 4pm	5/2	2,750	Upper 1/3	15 racks	R11 Hot	$400	$450
Gold Division	11/14 (Thu) 4pm	5/2	2,750	Middle 1/3	15 racks	R11 Hot	$400	$450
Silver Division	11/14 (Thu) 4pm	5/2	2,750	Lower 1/3	15 racks	R11 Hot	$400	$450
Ladies 8-Ball Teams [5]	11/14 (Thu) 4pm	3/1	1,350	All	9 racks	R7 Hot	$240	$270
Second Chance 8-Ball Teams [6]	11/16 (Sat) TBD	5/2	2,750	TBD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

1. Start times shown are the earliest possible start times. Actual start times may be later. Check the brackets or ask the Tournament Desk 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. Each entry includes admin & green fees. See the General Info section for a breakdown of these fees.
4. If there are at least 150 teams registered for 8-Ball Teams, the field will be split into three (3) divisions as shown. If there are less than 150 teams registered, the field will be split into two (2) divisions.
5. Open to ladies only. All ladies must be rated 660 or lower at the time of registration.
6. Teams that do not advance to Stage 2 may register for Second Chance 8-Ball Teams at the Tournament Desk immediately after the Stage 2 teams are posted. The format will be single elimination and handicapped by FargoRate. All other details will be announced at the event.

MINI-TOURNAMENTS

Mini-tournaments will be conducted based on demand and table availability. Many different formats may be offered such as handicapped, non-handicapped, 8-ball, 9-ball, 10-ball, etc. Those wishing to participate should visit the Tournament Desk.

Eligibility

- 2024 BCA Pool League or USA Pool League membership and play a minimum of four (4) full scheduled weeks in a single division session between Jan 1, 2024, and the registration deadline, or
- 2024 CSI Member ($40/year).

NOTE: A $20 green fee is due at the time of registration. Some mini-tournaments may have specific rating, gender, league, and misc. requirements.