

APA Singles Program

The APA Singles Program is designed to give APA members an opportunity to compete against other APA members, as an individual, and ultimately win the rights to compete in The National Singles Championships (NSC), held every April in Las Vegas, NV. Here players compete for **\$500,000** in cash and prizes.

Qualifier Boards:

To advance to the NSC, you must first win a local qualifier tournament – called a *qualifier board*. Winning a *qualifier board* advances you to the Regionals tournament. Winning your board at Regionals advances you to the NSC in Las Vegas.

Local Boards:

Information about local qualifier boards can be found by choosing the Singles Qualifier Program link on the APA of Austin Web site – austin.apaleagues.com, or by contacting Staci Thompson at: skfthompson@gmail.com.

Player Tiers:

The Singles Program provides individuals an opportunity to play other players at or near their skill level. At the Regional and National tournaments, the skill levels are currently divided into the following tiers:

8-ball: SL 2/3, SL4, SL5, SL6, SL7.

9-ball: SL 1-3, SL 4/5 and SL 6-9.

For example, if you are a SL4 in 8-ball, you will only play other SL4s at Regionals and the NSC. At the local level, we draw the boards from top skill levels to bottom (the 7s, then the 6s, etc). There are some boards designated for a particular tier, but most of the boards we run are open to all SLs.

Cost:

Most local qualifier boards are ~\$20*. There is no entry fee for Regionals, and all players who advance to the National Singles Championship receive lodging (single occupancy), a \$200 prize package (\$100 cash, \$100 commemorative jacket), and \$325 travel assistance. The travel assistance is paid in cash once you arrive in Las Vegas.

Eligibility:

8 Ball: All entrants must be current APA members and must be listed on the roster of an active APA 8 Ball team.

9 Ball: All entrants must be current APA members and must be listed on the roster of an active APA 9 Ball team.

In order to enter, a player's skill level must be based on at least ten (10) actual match scores, respective to the particular format of the board, and all ten (10) scores must have occurred within the last two (2) years.

So, if you play only 8-ball, you can only participate in an 8-ball qualifier. Once you qualify, you must stay on an active team, in the format for which you qualified.

Types of Qualifier Boards:

The Austin APA runs both single-elimination and double-elimination qualifier boards. Each is described below.

Single-elimination board:

A single-elimination (singles) board consists of 4-8 individuals, and one person will qualify for Regionals off the board. Boards with fewer than 8 individuals have byes. A singles board has a minimum of 4 players, all matches are played by APA rules, are scored, and the completed matches go into your match history. The fee for a singles qualifier board is set by the National Office and is currently \$160* for the board. However the local league office is presently subsidizing* part of this cost. Therefore a singles board will only cost a total of \$64*. This fee is split equally between the 4 to 8 players on the board. You may also choose to run a singles board where there is no entry fee per person, but the winner pays the entire cost of the board (\$64*). Players will also pay a \$1 fee to the tournament director.

Qualifier Tournament:

Throughout the qualifying window, the Austin APA will schedule qualifier tournaments. The tournament consists of 8 and 9-ball 4-person, single-elimination boards that are run continuously throughout the day. To participate, you pay a one-time \$2 fee at the door, and can play as many boards as you like. If you don't qualify, you pay nothing more. If you qualify, you'll pay \$64 to the tournament director. On a 4-person, single-elimination board you have to win only two matches to qualify. The Austin APA makes every effort to group the boards by skill level, but that is dependent on the participants who come to the event.

Double-elimination boards

There are two types of double-elimination qualifier boards, the Splashboard format, where 5 individuals qualify, and a regular double elimination board where two individuals qualify.

Splashboards:

This double-elimination board, is made up of exactly 16 people (no more, no less – no byes). Five people qualify for Regionals from the board. The bracket works differently than a typical winner/loser side bracket - it's not that the top 5 qualify. You just win three matches before you lose two, and you're qualified for Regionals. All matches are played by APA rules, are scored, and the completed matches go into your match history. The cost for a splashboard is \$20*, plus \$1 for the tournament director – total \$21.

Double-elimination board

Occasionally there will not be enough participants to run the 16-person splashboard, and so the tournament director will run a straight double-elimination board. This board can be run with 6-8 people (meaning up to two byes), and two people will qualify off the board. This type of board takes a little longer, as there is an extra round on the left-hand side. The costs of the board vary, depending on the number of people:

6-8 person Double Elimination Board - 2 qualify			
\$128 must be turned in on the board			
No of Players	Cost	Winner pays extra:	Odds
8	\$17	\$0	25%
7	\$19	\$1 Each	29%
6	\$22	\$1 each	33%
16-person splashboard (5 qualify)			
\$320 must be turned in on the board			
No of Players	Cost	Winner pays extra:	Odds
16	\$21	\$0	31%
All costs includes \$1 for the tournament director			

There is no limit to the number of qualifier boards we can run, and anyone can run a board. You do not have to be a team captain or division rep to run one.

Regionals:

The Regional tournament consists of players from Austin, San Antonio and the Valley. There are two Regionals per year, one in October, and one in March. The qualifying window for the October Regional is Jan 1 through June 15. The qualifying window for the March Regional is June 16 through Nov 30. Both Regionals feed the National Singles Finals tournament in April.

The number of people advancing to Las Vegas depends entirely on the number of people who have qualified for Regionals. Generally, there is one National qualifying slot for every 16 players. For example, if there are 32 SL4s qualified for Regional, there will be two boards of 4s, and each board will qualify a player to the NSC. You don't have to beat all 32 4s in order to qualify for Nationals.

Regionals are held in Austin or San Antonio. The October 2014 and March 2015 Regional will be held at Slick Willie's on Burnet Road, in Austin.

The NSC:

Information on the past NSC tournaments, including final player standings, payouts, etc., is available at the National APA Website at: <http://www.poolplayers.com/nsc.html>.

** The overall fee and the subsidy by the league office are subject to change.*