



Ohio Coin Machine Association

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OCMA/VNEA POOL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS*

ELIGIBILITY

Charterholder: Only operators who qualify under the definition of amusement machine operators adopted by the Code of Regulations and By Laws of the Ohio Coin Machine Association may apply to participate in the OCMA/Valley Pool League Tournament. They must hold a valid charter issued by the VNEA, be an operator member of OCMA and hold a valid charter issued by the OCMA. To be eligible for a pool charter, the OCMA member must submit letters of recommendation from not less than two current OCMA Pool charters. Additionally, the charterholder applicant shall own and operate at least 4 coin operated pool tables, 4 coin operated music machines and 20 other coin operated amusement devices OR the charterholder applicant owns and operates no less than 30 coin operated pool tables, 50% of which are not in their principal place of business or places in which they have a proprietary interest.

Player: Only players composed of Pool Leagues participating in OCMA operator-formed leagues, competing on equipment owned and operated by OCMA member operators will be eligible to compete in the state tournament. All players must be sanctioned by the VNEA and comply with all OCMA/VNEA eligibility requirements.

LOCAL LEAGUE FORMAT/ORGANIZATION

Organization will be Pool Leagues, played on coin-operated OCMA pool charterholder owned tables. The game may be played in the following types of leagues:

Open League (A & AA, Masters Divisions) - may consist of men and/or women players (3, 4 or 5-person teams). A league must consist of a minimum of four teams in at least four different physical Ohio locations. For leagues near a state border, a majority of the matches must be played in Ohio locations.

Women's League (A & AA Divisions) – must consist of women players (3, 4 or 5-person teams); however, men are allowed on a women's roster at the local level but, if they plan on competing in the women's division at the State Tournament, the man must be taken off the roster. A women's team that competes in an open league MAY compete in EITHER the Open or Women's Division at the State Tournament. A league must consist of a minimum of four teams in at least four different physical Ohio locations. For leagues near a state border, a majority of the matches must be played in Ohio locations.

The format of the games will be league play. Each member operator will be responsible for organizing a league or leagues of players and conducting an agreed upon league schedule for a minimum of 9 weeks.

A league must be organized on tables owned and operated by that OCMA Charterholder and must have a separate schedule from any other league system. A Charterholder may organize a league and schedule matches on another

OCMA member charterholder's equipment, if both charterholders agree. Shared leagues are permitted. All games on a charterholder's schedule must be played on tables owned and operated by an OCMA charterholder – not on any “location owned” tables or tables “leased” exclusively during league play.

Each league shall operate and compete under the Rules and By-laws and Constitution of the Valley National 8-Ball League Association and the OCMA/Valley Pool League Tournament.

Each Charterholder league shall operate within the framework of the Organization and as an independent unit and MAY use the following as guidelines:

- a) Elect their own officers (president, vice president, secretary-treasurer)
- b) Establish prize fund amounts and distribution method.
- c) Establish length of schedule (minimum 8 weeks).
- d) Establish special rules confined to their own participation.
- e) Establish holiday layoffs if desired.
- f) Determine the number of teams and restrictions based on the nature of players.
- g) Settle or arbitrate any protests arising from National or Local Rule infractions during a regularly scheduled league match.
- h) Establish all league award categories and recognitions.
- i) Administer the collection, safe-guarding and distribution of all their league funds.

The charterholder shall be responsible for maintaining its own records and standings throughout the competitive schedule.

FEES

The OCMA/Valley Pool League Tournament Charter fee is \$300 annually. Each charterholder shall also pay a \$15.00 franchise/team fee per team, per session, to the OCMA.

STATE TOURNAMENT

General Rules/Eligibility Requirements - All players must be at least 21 years of age and have played a minimum of nine (9) nights in one session with the same team, or twelve (12) nights in two sessions (must be the same exact team roster for both sessions) to be eligible to play/compete as a team at the state tournament. (One “night” is defined as 50% of games played in a match). All players must be sanctioned by the VNEA. No sleeveless shirts, halter-tops, swim suits, no mini-skirts/dresses shorter than three inches above the knee may be worn. Also, proper footwear is required (eg. closed toe shoes - no "flip-flops", sandals, etc.). All shorts must be clean, neat, presentable, hemmed and of proper length to be allowed. Rugged cut-offs will not be allowed. No vulgar language on shirts or spoken. No gambling of any kind is permitted. All players, upon request, must be able to show positive I.D. (i.e., an up-to-date sanction card and picture I.D.). All players are subject to random I.D. checks. A player can only play on one (1) team at the State Tournament (e.g., a female player may not be on the roster of an open team and a women's team) and they cannot play under another charterholder for the tournament.

Team Roster Addition/Change Policy - A team may add/subtract players to their tournament roster prior to the tournament, under the following guidelines **ONLY**: Subs may be chosen within the league system **ONLY** under extenuating circumstances (medical emergency, death in the family, etc). A sub must play a minimum of nine (9) nights in one session or twelve (12) nights in two sessions. The Charterholder must include sub paperwork with

the tournament entry form paperwork. The sub must be pre-approved by the OCMA office prior to start of the state tournament.

Entries - State tournament entries will be allocated by the OCMA Office after all charterholders have completed the Annual Pool Tournament Survey and after assessing the needs of each charterholder based on the number of total teams in leagues throughout the state and the number of tournament spots available.

Team Eligibility - The competition is open to teams from OCMA & VNEA Charterholders. The teams must be sanctioned and players verified by a standing sheet and sanction cards. (These eligibility requirements are different from the International Tournament. Please refer to the VNEA Rule Book for International Eligibility Requirements.)

Standing Sheets/Schedules/Rosters - All Schedules and Rosters **must** be sent to the OCMA office pursuant to the Annual Calendar. Standing Sheets **must** be submitted for each session. Team standing and roster sheets **must** be physically attached to each tournament entry form. Failure to do so will result in those teams NOT being entered in the State Tournament

Registration Fees – Team Registration Fees (do NOT include green fees): Open A Division is \$125 per team. Women's A Division is \$100 per team. Open B Division is \$125 per team. Open AA Division is \$300 per team. Women's AA Division is \$250 per team. Open Masters Division is \$400 per team. Women's Masters Division is \$350 per team. **Singles Registration Fees (DO include green fees):** Open A Division is \$65 per person. Women's A Division is \$65 per person. Open AA Division is \$85 per person. Women's AA Division is \$85 per person. Open Masters Division is \$125 per person. Women's Masters Division is \$105 per person. **Singles entry fees include “green fees”**. All entry fees are subject to change.

Returned Registration Fees Policy – Charterholders will be responsible for any unused tournament entry forms using the following formula: Returned within 8-14 days of the state tournament, 50% of entry fee due; returned within 7 days of the state tournament, 75% of entry fee due. If charterholders return entry forms earlier than 14 days before the start of the state tournament, there will be no charge.

Tournament Tables - Tournament table prices will be set prior to the tournament, including setting green fee rates. Green Fee Rates for Team Events are as follows: Open A Division is \$95 per team. Women's A Division is \$76 per team. Open AA Division is \$120 per team. Women's AA Division is \$76. Open Masters Division is \$120 per team. Women's Masters Division is \$76 per team. Singles Tournament Green Fees are \$25 per person. These green fee rates are subject to change.

Team Division Rules/Regulations:

Open A Division - Any team competing in an Open Division during league play may compete in the Open A Division at the State Tournament. A team must be composed of at least three (3) original players from their league team and add a fourth and fifth player from within their same league system. An undetermined number of teams from the Open A Division will be placed on the Open AA Players List for future years. No Professional, Master, Intermediate or AA players are eligible to compete on an Open A team. Teams/players must meet previously disclosed eligibility requirements.

Women's A Division - Any team competing in the Women's Division during league play may compete in the Women's A Division or Open A Division at the State Tournament. A team must be composed of at least two (2)

original players from their league team and add a third and fourth player from within their same league system. A women's team that competes in an Open Division at the local level MAY compete in either the Open or Women's Divisions at the State Tournament. A man is allowed on a women's roster at the local level; however, the man **shall** be taken off the state tournament roster. An undetermined number of teams from the Women's A Division will be placed on the Women's AA Players List for future years. No Professional, Master, Intermediate or AA players are eligible to compete on a Women's A team. Teams/players must meet previously disclosed eligibility requirements.

Open AA Division – Open AA Teams may be composed of any five (5) players from within their Charterholder's League System as long as they meet previously adopted eligibility requirements. All-star teams may be created consisting of any players within the charterholder's entire league system (players must meet previously adopted eligibility requirements). **NO Master Player may be listed on an Open AA or Open A Team Tournament Registration Form.** No AA players are eligible to compete on an A Team. An unlimited number of AA and VNEA Intermediate players can compete on an AA Team. Players/teams maintain AA status perpetually UNTIL each player petitions the OCMA, in writing, by June 30th requesting to be removed from the list. After consultation with the player's charterholder coordinator, OCMA tournament director and OCMA office, the player will be notified of the final decision via their charterholder. There will be NO automatic removal from the "Open AA" Player list. **Players are not eligible to petition until after they have participated in the state tournament for at least three years without cashing. Players may not "sit out" for three years and then petition.**

Women's AA Division - Women's AA Teams may be composed of any four (4) players from within their Charterholder's League System as long as they meet previously disclosed eligibility requirements. All-star teams may be created consisting of any players within the charterholder's entire league system (players must meet previously adopted eligibility requirements). **NO Master Player may be listed on an Open AA or Open A Team Tournament Registration Form.** No AA players are eligible to compete on a Ladies A Team. An unlimited number of AA and VNEA Intermediate players can compete on a Woman's AA Team. Players/teams maintain AA status perpetually UNTIL each player petition's the OCMA, in writing, by June 30th requesting to be removed from the list. After consultation with the player's charterholder coordinator, OCMA tournament director and OCMA office, the player will be notified of the final decision. There will be NO automatic removal from the "Women's AA" Player list. **Players are not eligible to petition until after they have participated in the state tournament for at least three years without cashing. Players may not "sit out" for three years and then petition.**

Open Masters Division – Open Master Teams may be composed of any five (5) players from within their Charterholder's League System as long as they meet previously adopted eligibility requirements. All-star teams may be created consisting of any combination of Master, AA, VNEA Intermediate or A players within the charterholder's entire league system (players must meet previously adopted eligibility requirements). Players/teams maintain Master status perpetually UNTIL each player petition's the OCMA, in writing, by June 30th requesting to be removed from the list. After consultation with the player's charterholder coordinator, OCMA tournament director and OCMA office, the player will be notified of the final decision. There will be NO automatic removal from the "Open Masters" Player list. **Players are not eligible to petition until after they have participated in the state tournament for at least three years without cashing. Players may not "sit out" for three years and then petition.**

Woman's Masters Division – Woman's Master Teams may be composed of any four (4) players from within their Charterholder's League System as long as they meet previously adopted eligibility requirements. All-star teams may be created consisting of any combination of Master, AA, VNEA Intermediate or A players within the charterholder's entire league system (players must meet previously adopted eligibility requirements).

Players/teams maintain Master status perpetually UNTIL each player petition's the OCMA, in writing, by June 30th requesting to be removed from the list. After consultation with the player's charterholder coordinator, OCMA tournament director and OCMA office, the player will be notified of the final decision. There will be NO automatic removal from the "Women Masters" Player list. **Players are not eligible to petition until after they have participated in the state tournament for at least three years without cashing. Players may not "sit out" for three years and then petition.**

Open B Division – For the 2023 Tournament, there will be a Pilot Program for a B Division. The B Division Teams will consist of those teams who competed in the 2022 Tournament and that went "two and out" or "three and out" in the case of a first-round bye. A List of eligible players will be created by OCMA and distributed to each charterholder. It is not mandatory for these players/teams to compete in the B Division, it's their choice. Prize money will be awarded based on total number of entries (as is the case for all divisions) and certificates will be awarded, but not plaques.

Team Master and AA Player Lists – OCMA will release a Master & AA Player List each year. OCMA shall also use lists and/or results from other states to determine eligibility to compete in certain divisions at the state tournament.

Professional Player Rule – Any player listed in any of the following criteria is NOT eligible to play in any OCMA A Division or State Singles Pool competition. Furthermore, any player so deemed to be a professional by the VNEA may compete in the Masters Team event only, provided that player is the only professional on that team. (Criteria: Top 128 men players of the World Pool Billiard Association (WPA); Top 32 women players of the World Pool Billiard Association (WPA) or Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA) or any player classified as a "Touring Pro" or an "Active Pro" by the WPBA; or Top 64 players of the www.AZBilliardss.com pro rankings), or any other pro player list.

Substitution Policy During a Tournament Match – Opposing team captain MUST be notified BEFORE the start of the round in which the substitution is being made. A substitute player is not allowed to play any opposing player more than once. Once a player has played, they must keep that same round position unless removed for a round and reinstated in a later round.

Singles Tournament Rules & Regulations:

A Divisions – No Master, VNEA Intermediate, AA player may compete in the A division.

AA Divisions – No Master player may compete in the AA division.

Master Division – Any player may compete in the Masters Division.

Master and AA Player Lists – OCMA will release a Master & AA Player List each year. OCMA shall also use lists from other states to determine eligibility to compete in certain divisions at the state tournament. The Masters & AA Player Lists will be used to determine division eligibility for the Team & Singles Tournaments.

Communication – OCMA shall communicate only to charterholders initially, but may text message players one (1) week after communicating the information to pool charterholders. OCMA shall direct player inquires to their respective charterholder.

Tournament Floor Rule – During Team Events, only Team Members shall be allowed on the Tournament Floor, due to overcrowding on the tournament floor. Spouses, significant others, guests, visitors, "the crowd", etc. shall not be on the tournament floor and shall be seated in the stands (red seats).

8/15, 8/16, 8/17, 8/18, 8/19, 1/21, 8/22

OCMA Pool Tournament Team/Player Accountability Policy:

OCMA will enforce a more stringent policy regarding non-compliance of OCMA's Pool Tournament Rules & Regulations, especially where illegal teams and players are concerned.

ALL teams and players shall be subject to the following fines if found in non-compliance with OCMA's Pool Tournament Rules & Regulations:

1. ALL Teams and Players found to be of illegal standing by December 1st of the tournament year shall forfeit any prize monies received and refund to the OCMA office by December 31st of the tournament year. Failure to refund prize monies to the OCMA office by the deadline will result in the following:
 - a. Team/Player expulsion from the Tournament forever unless prize monies are refunded by December 31st of the tournament year. Once prize monies are refunded, teams and players will be re-instated to compete at a later date. Minimum of one year suspension will be implemented if refund is not received by the due date.
 - b. If prize monies are not refunded by December 31st, teams and players shall be charged an additional fine of \$100.
2. OCMA shall provide all other State Tournament Directors, the VNEA and the BCA information about offending team and player names to help legitimize tournaments and allow for fair play for all.

Charterholder Fine:

OCMA/VNEA Charterholders shall be fined \$500 for the first offense, \$1,000 for the second offense and permanent expulsion on the third offense. Fine will be due no later than December 31st of the tournament year. If fine is not paid by December 31st of the tournament year, Charterholder will not be permitted to send teams/players to any future tournaments.

I have read the Rules & Regulations and understand the "Accountability Policy" and "Fines". Please sign below.

Charterholder Company Name: _____ Date: _____

Owner (Print Name)

Owner (Signature)

Pool Coordinator (Print Name)

Pool Coordinator (Signature)

Return this page to the OCMA Office via email (ocma@the-ocma.org), fax (614.784.9771) or mail (3757 Indianola Ave., Columbus, OH 43214) by October 31st.

* - May be changed without prior notice