

Five Star Sportsmanship Program



In most APA Leagues and on most League nights, things go according to plan and the teams have a great time playing APA pool. Occasionally, there may be a player or even a team in the League that other player's just hate being around. They may make sexist or racist remarks, bang balls around intentionally to try to skew our handicapping system, or just display an unsportsmanlike conduct in general. Usually these players or teams get away with their actions far too long before the League Office is able to take appropriate action. Players simply don't like to complain unless the problem turns major.

With this in mind, the **Greater Scranton APA** has put into place a Five Star Sportsmanship Program designed to increase the fun you have playing in the League. This program enables the League Office to:

- ★ Reward teams that from week to week are "great" teams to play against
- ★ Identify teams that are unpleasant to be around
- ★ Apply probationary status, suspend, or remove the players who cause problems
- ★ Reorganize those teams in question if problems persist

This system, which is now an integral part of the American Poolplayers Association, Inc. computer software, gives us instantaneous feedback to our sportsmanship problems.

With your weekly rating, the League Office will be able to compile a list of the teams providing the very best sportsmanship, and acknowledge and reward them. The League Office will just as easily be able to identify those teams causing problems in the League.

The Five Star Sportsmanship Program works as follows:

- ★ Every week you will rate the opposing team – It's simple! You only need to write in a number from 1 to 5 on the scoresheet in the section which reads "**Team # XXXXX receives a _ Star Rating this match**".
- ★ If you do not take the time to rate your opponent, they will automatically receive a "4" star rating.
- ★ Score the team only after all matches have been played, and only after both Team Captains have signed the scoresheet.
- ★ Don't let the opposing team know how you are rating them! Simply write their rating in privacy before turning in your team envelope.
- ★ The Greater Scranton APA assures you that the rating you give your opponents will be 100% confidential.

Towards the end of every session, the League Office will examine the ratings and identify those teams that are great to compete against. Once identified, they will be acknowledged on our website and social media, and sent Good Sportsmanship Certificates.

It is also at the League Office's discretion to award teams exhibiting great sportsmanship in the form of trophies, prizes, promotions, free entry into tournaments, and giveaways.

Star Rating System: How to Rate the Opposing Team

The following are suggested guidelines for rating your opponent's sportsmanship under the American Poolplayers Association's Five Star Sportsmanship Program. Please feel free to use your own judgment.



- ✓ Stellar rating
- ✓ The team is one of the nicest in the League
- ✓ The team doesn't cause any problems and are a pleasure to play
- ✓ The team goes above and beyond to show Good Sportsmanship
- ✓ The team knows the rules front to back
- ✓ The team's players will call fouls on themselves and inform the teams that they have committed a foul
- ✓ The team's players announce all defensive shots
- ✓ The team's players inform *your* player to mark-up their game winning shot
- ✓ The team makes your night out feel special
- ✓ The team displays a strong comradery among both team's players
- ✓ Play started on time and continued on schedule
- ✓ Your team, win or lose, had an amazingly fun time playing
- ✓ You would love to play this type of team weekly

Give out this rating **sparingly!** Use the 4-star rating when your team has had a well above average or fantastic night out. Save the 5-star rating for those teams that really deserve it!



- ✓ Above average rating
- ✓ The team exhibits Good Sportsmanship
- ✓ The team causes absolutely no problems
- ✓ The team knows the rules front to back
- ✓ The team is a pleasure to play
- ✓ Play started on time and continued on schedule
- ✓ Your team, win or lose, had an above average and great, fun night out

This is the Greater Scranton APA's Target Level. Every night out playing APA pool should be at this level.



- ✓ Average rating
- ✓ No major problems
- ✓ Minor rule disagreements
- ✓ Attitudes may have got slightly out of hand, but the Team Captain got the players in line and apologized for the infraction
- ✓ The night continued without further incident
- ✓ Play started on time but may have run late
- ✓ Your team, win or lose, had a good night out

This is the last deemed acceptable sportsmanship rating. Below a 3-star level is cause for concern from the League Office.

Star Rating System: How to Rate the Opposing Team (cont.)

Below Average Ratings: Unacceptable Sportsmanship



- ✓ Poor rating
- ✓ The team caused multiple **minor** problems
- ✓ The opposing Team Captain did nothing to get his/her players under control
- ✓ Your evening wasn't fun
- ✓ The opposing team made smart or degrading remarks
- ✓ The opposing team tried to manipulate the handicap system
- ✓ The opposing team employed sharking tactics
- ✓ The opposing team was rude and unfriendly
- ✓ Your team, win or lose, did not have a fun night out
- ✓ The opposing team did not know the rules
- ✓ The League night ran **extremely** late and off schedule

A write-up on your scoresheet should accompany this rating explaining why you gave this team a 2-star rating. The League Operator will contact the Team Captains to discern what the problems were and how they can be corrected.



- ✓ **Unacceptable** rating
- ✓ Opposing team members threatened and/or intimidated your players
- ✓ The team caused multiple **major** problems
- ✓ The opposing Team Captain did nothing to get his/her players under control
- ✓ Your team, win or lose, had a terrible night out
- ✓ You fear playing this team again

A write-up on your scoresheet **must** accompany this rating explaining why you gave this team a 1-star rating! The League Operator will contact the Team Captains to investigate and discern what problems arose and how they can be corrected.

The team receiving a 1-star rating will be under heavy scrutiny and put on probationary status with a possible suspension if warranted. The League Office will not tolerate teams or members of those teams who display this level of unsportsmanlike conduct.