



## Banquets/Player Parties

Player recognition is an integral part of retaining your player base in your league system. End-of-season banquets and player parties are an easy way to recognize your players and thank them for their participation in your league system.

The banquet/party is usually held at the conclusion of the league season. It is best to plan this date in advance so you can communicate it to your players throughout the season, and so you can begin planning the event.

There are many avenues you can take when planning your banquet/party. Usually the event is held at one of the league locations, but can also be held at a local hotel, restaurant, outdoor facility or party hall, depending on the crowd and the availability of the sites. Another idea is to have the banquet/party at the first place team's home tavern.

Many serve dinner, while others serve snacks and drinks. Free drinks are always a draw, and can normally be arranged by contacting your league sponsor. If serving a full meal is too cost prohibitive for you, try serving the meat or main course and ask your players to bring potluck dishes.

Entertainment for the banquet/party can be anything from the obvious free dart play to outdoor activities such as boating if you are near a body of water. Other ideas are blind draw tournaments, a family theme with children's games, bowling, dancing and more outdoor fun like horseshoes or softball.

Giveaways, raffles and door prize drawings are also other ways to draw your players to the event. Sponsors, locations and area businesses are usually willing to provide these types of prizes if you can give them the extra recognition at your event. Giving away a free dartboard is a great way to guarantee attendance.

When planning your awards presentation, try to come up with new recognition ideas each year and remember to avoid only recognizing champions. Besides the league results awards, give awards for the top shooters, a most valuable shooter, most improved players or any of the NDA feat awards.

Awards can be costly, so you should contact your league sponsors and local businesses to help defray the costs. Trophies and plaques are usually given to the winners, but you can enhance the total prize by giving away jackets, hats, patches, darts, dart cases and many other promotional items your sponsors may have available. This provides you with great prizes and your sponsors with added recognition.