

COOR'S WEST RIVER 8 BALL LEAGUE

BY-LAWS 2025-2026 SEASON

GENERAL

1. The League will consist of one Open division. The number of conferences and the number of teams in each conference will be determined at the beginning of each season, depending on the number of teams signing up for the league.
2. The League will sanction themselves with the VNEA to be eligible to send both teams and individuals to the State Tournament and the VNEA National events.
3. To change teams, a player must obtain the consent of the two team captains involved after 50% of the season has been played. If captains cannot agree, the teams may submit a request to the board.
4. **Added at general meeting 8-21-2017** – the season for the league will consist of a minimum of 20 weeks of play (this may be longer) that will start the Monday after Labor Day and finish before April 1.
5. **CHANGED 08-27-2018:** The fiscal year of the league shall be August 1 to July 31.

TEAMS

1. The Open Division will consist of five regular players, plus any number of substitute players.
2. Teams may ADD NEW PLAYERS ANY TIME during the season.
3. Team Captains are responsible for their player's behavior. If Team Captains cannot handle these players, the Board of Directors will settle any disputes.
4. If a TEAM IS SHORT A PLAYER(s), that team is REQUIRED to pay that player(s) fee(s) for the missing player(s) that night. Player(s) should in turn pay back his/her team.
5. **Added at general meeting 8-21-2017** – League boundaries will include some cities and areas outside the Rapid City metro area. These cities are identified as Sturgis, Rimrock/ Johnson Siding, New Underwood, Hermosa and Rockerville.

PLAYERS

1. A Parent or Legal Guardian MUST accompany players under 21 years of age. (This is due to State Liquor Laws.) **Contact sponsors prior to playing at their location** when in doubt. Some bars will not let them in under any circumstances. This is the sponsor's decision and must be followed.
2. Players must pay their total League Dues the 1st night of Play. If they don't pay, the team captain will be reminded to pay all fees.
3. **CHANGED 08-27-2018:** Players in the OPEN Division **MUST PLAY 75%** of the season to be eligible for individual trophies or awards.
4. Players **MUST PLAY 8 WEEKS** to be eligible to PLAY IN THE LEAGUE TEAM PLAYOFFS.
5. Players **MUST PLAY 8 WEEKS** to be eligible to PLAY IN THE STATE TOURNAMENT.
6. You may not substitute one player after play has begun on regular league nights.

7. The League's Singles Tournament will be open to all League members who are in Good Standing, and WHO HAVE PLAYED 8 WEEKS in their division. **CHANGED 8-11-2025:** If the Singles Tournament is held in January, the required weeks to qualify for the Singles Tournament will be 6 weeks.
8. If you place in the **singles tournament** high enough for the league to pay your entry fee into Nationals, you must have played the REQUIRED NUMBER OF WEEKS SET BY THE VNEA National Tournament Guidelines. VNEA set their limit at 12 weeks for ALL Singles events. This applies only to VNEA National tournament, not league or state tournaments. If a player does not meet these qualifications, the League paid spot will go to the next eligible player finishing in the singles.
9. **CHANGED 08-27-2018:** Players must play 8 weeks to establish a handicap for the season. To determine handicap, the previous 3 seasons averages are used. Prior to this change, the player could have played any number of weeks in a season and that average would count toward the combined average. This change establishes a minimum number of weeks a player must play to establish an average in any given season.
10. **ADDED 8-11-2025:** Earbuds and headphones will not be allowed when a player is playing a game.

BOARD MEMBERS

1. The first alternate will replace any Board Member missing two consecutive meeting (including general sessions) without an excusable absence. All Board Members must be in good standing with the League.

MEMBERSHIP FEES & WEEKLY DUES

1. Sponsor fees will be \$100.00 per team, per year. The VENDORS, not players, collect this fee.
2. MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$7.00 Nightly Fee, \$10.00 League Membership Fee, and \$15.00 VNEA Sanction Fee for a total of \$32.00 the first night you play. After that, Nightly Fees are \$7.00 each week, plus table money. Your Team Captain will be notified of any missing dues and will receive a warning.
3. Open Division weekly player fee is \$7.00 per player, plus game quarters. Table rates are set by the vendors.
4. Captains: You will be responsible to pay an NSF charge of \$15.00 (based off of 2013-2014 season League bank fees; will be \$5.00 more than what bank charges the league for future seasons), in addition to the amount of your League check, should it not clear the bank.
5. **ADDED 8-11-2025:** Venmo will be an option for paying membership fees and weekly dues. If Venmo is used, the payor must also pay the fees to use Venmo: 1.9% + .10.

EQUIPMENT

1. Only 3 ½' x 7' coin operated Valley tables through an approved VNEA operator may be used.
2. Tables must be equipped with a regulation sized (small) cue ball during League play.
3. Sponsor must have at least two Valley tables to sponsor a team. Example: If your sponsor location has 4 tables, they can sponsor 4 teams, 2 tables 2 teams, 6 tables 6 teams, etc.

REFEREES

1. During regular season play, players will referee their own matches. If both team captains agree, you may use someone other than the two players involved. During the playoffs the Board of Directors will act as referee if needed.

SCORING & SIT OUT NIGHTS

1. The player winning the game receives 3 points, plus 1 point for each of the opponent's balls left on the table. The loser receives no points.
2. It is the Team Captain's responsibility to have the correct handicaps of his/her players. After both Team Captains agree on the night's total score, they must sign both score sheets.
3. **When a team has a sit out night** (incurred by having an odd number of teams in a division) the team will receive 120 points. The team **MUST** submit a score sheet and weekly fee for the sit out night. Individual players listed on the score sheet submitted will receive credit for that week played, and handicaps will not change for these players listed. **Bylaw amendment from 8-15-2016 general meeting, player names submitted on the score sheet in a sit-out week WILL NOT BE CHANGED RETROACTIVELY.**
4. The reason the team still pays the weekly fee is because they are receiving points, which they will be paid back for at the end of the season.
5. **When a team wins by forfeit** (due to not showing up on time or at all the night of scheduled play) – Please see FORFEITS AND FORFEIT SCORING below.
6. **When a team receives a forfeit win by a team dropping out** – Please see FORFEITS AND FORFEIT SCORING below.

FORFEIT AND FORFEIT SCORING

1. **When a team receives a win by a forfeit** of a Team dropping out during the season, they will receive their team's weekly average OR the average of points scored against the team that dropped out, decided by the teams that did play them, **WHICHEVER** is the higher average. A team must have a minimum of 5 weekly scores before a team average will be determined.
2. **When a team wins by forfeit**, they will receive their team's weekly average. Weekly averages include both Scratch and Handicap points. (Unless it is a team that has dropped out, the please see #1 under FORFEITS AND FORFEIT SCORING).
 - a) *When a team loses by forfeit, they get one-half of their team's weekly average. The team that forfeits only receives payback for their forfeit score, not their total weekly average points. Total weekly average scratch points will be used to determine division placement in the playoffs due to the possibility of sandbagging.*
3. If a team doesn't show up, they forfeit all 25 games. **BOTH TEAMS** must still **PAY** the Nightly Fee and submit a scoresheet with players listed, and handicaps do not change for these players listed. As stated in the sit-out section above, player names may not be changed retroactively.
4. When a team wins by a forfeit, they are required to pay the player's Nightly Fees before the deadline of that week or their team will also forfeit.

5. If a match is forfeited to a team, the forfeit goes into the record books.
6. Individual players forfeit each game he or she is not present for, when his/her turn comes around each round.
7. If a player arrives by their 3rd round game, they will receive their handicap points. If they arrive by the 4th round game, they will NOT receive their handicap points.
8. At least three players must be present by forfeit time or the entire match is forfeited.
9. If a team forfeits 2 weeks in a row, the Board of Directors will meet with the team captain and sponsor and determine what action to take.
10. **CHANGED 08-16-2021: TIME OF PLAY:** Open Division – 7:00 pm starting time, **7:30 pm forfeit time.**

Please use courtesy when players have conflicts, especially since this is a new rule. Several teams drive very long distances, so please take that into consideration, along with the weather. If you are the team that will be late, please contact the captain of the team you are playing.

This is real time, not bar time. Matches are to be started by forfeit time!

SCORING PER GAME (FORFEITS)

1. Players will receive 4 points per game, or individual's scratch game average, whichever is higher. Open Division: If your scratch average is 22.49 or less, you will receive 4 points per game forfeited. If your scratch is 22.50 or higher; you will receive 5 points per game forfeited, etc.
2. **Any** team that is **SHORT PLAYER(s)** will receive **ZERO** points per game forfeited and zero handicap. FORFEIT will be written down for the player name. DO NOT write in a player's name, they will not get credit for a week played for a forfeit and their handicap will not change.
3. For sit-outs/byes, forfeiting and scoring for teams that have dropped out, please refer to sections "Scoring and Sit Out Nights" and "Forfeits and Forfeit Scoring" sections of bylaws.
4. Team captains will be responsible for double checking their total points, which will be posted online at www.westriver8ballleague.com. They will have two weeks to notify their designated division board member, otherwise scores will stand as posted. (This was voted on at the 2013 Membership meeting, so there will be no adjustments made to handicaps during tournament play.)
5. Team name must be written on envelope if put into drop box at Kelly's.

SCORE SHEETS – DEADLINE

1. Money and score sheets **MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN THURSDAY** of the same week. Every team will be allowed **ONE WARNING** for a late postmarked score sheet. The captain will be notified of the warning. If it happens a 2nd time during the season, the team will owe the league a \$20.00 late fee, and every time thereafter (as voted on at the General Membership meeting August 12, 2013). If the score sheets are mailed late 2 weeks in a row and monies and score sheet are not received by Monday, the team will not be allowed to play the third week. The opposing team will be notified and the week will be considered a forfeit. Each team captain is responsible

for sending in his/her score sheet and money each week, regardless of whether they are home or visiting team.

2. Money and score sheets can also be turned in at the drop box at Kelly's no later than Thursday night before midnight, in place of post-marked envelopes. If they are not in Friday morning at pick up, they will be considered late with penalties found above in #1.

POSTPONEMENTS

1. The Team Captain is responsible for rescheduling and should notify the opposing team captain at least one day in advance. The match should be rescheduled within two weeks. Also, the captain should notify the board member in charge of their division right away when rescheduling, either when advance notice is given, or when short notice is given because of an emergency. If both team captains cannot agree on the reschedule date the Board of Directors will set a date when the match is to be played.
2. When two teams reschedule a match and do not play until AFTER their next regularly scheduled match, their handicap will not be figured until after they have made up their rescheduled match. Handicaps and score sheets will be figured and posted in the order according to the schedule.
3. In case of emergencies, such as an alert at the Base, bad weather, etc., matches can be rescheduled without advance notice. Please make every effort to contact the opposing team captain and a board member when doing so. In the event play is in progress when the emergency arises, play will resume at the end of the last completed game.

PROTESTS

1. Protests **MUST be in writing and received within 24 hours along with a \$15.00 deposit.** The deposit will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
2. Any complaints or protests should be worked out between team captains if possible before filing protests.
3. The match must be completed in spite of the game being protested.
4. Only the team captain can file a protest.
5. The outcome of a protest is determined by a decision of the Board of Directors.

PLAYOFFS AND BANQUET

1. The date and location of the playoffs and the banquet will be announced as soon as possible. **CHANGED 04-19-2025:** The board has discretion to choose the tournament location.
2. In the event of a TIE at the end of the season in any division, a full match playoff with handicap scoring at a neutral site (chosen by the Board of Directors) will be held.
3. In case of a TIE during League Playoffs Tournament, winner will be decided by the following criteria:
 - a. Each team chooses one player from their own team to play one game. Winner of that game will determine winner of the match.
4. A team must play in the playoffs to receive any playoff money.

5. REFER TO POINTS/HANDICAPS ADJUSTMENT FOR PLAYOFFS.

TROPHIES & AWARDS

1. Playoffs: Team trophies will be given out for 1st thru 3rd place in each division.
Divisions: Team trophies will be given out for the top finishing teams in each conference at the end of the season. – 1st thru 3rd in the Open Division. There are also awards for the MVP and the High Scratch for individuals in each conference. **ADDED 08-13-2024:** There will be awards for MVP and High Scratch for a woman in each conference.
- Awards will be distributed at the awards banquet.
2. **CHANGED 08-27-2018:** Players in the OPEN Division must play at least 75% of the Season to be eligible for any individual awards.
3. Those receiving individual awards will be determined by the following criteria:
 - a. Most Valuable Player (MVP) – figured by using the record of the person's total scratch points minus their negative (points lost) points for the season, and dividing it by the number of weeks they played. There will be no MVP for the playoffs. This was determined by a majority vote at the General Meeting 8/23/94.
 - b. High Scratch player – figured by using the record of the person's total scratch points divided by the total number of weeks they played.
 - c. Sportsmanship award – individual players may submit nominations for anyone they feel exemplifies the qualities of good sportsmanship. Each player may submit multiple nominations. The nomination form will be available online. No specific criteria are set. Award added at general meeting on 8/15/2016.
 - d. Most Improved Award- The player with the largest change in average from the previous year, having played enough weeks to qualify for the city tournament in both current and previous years and not have won either the Highest Average or MVP awards in that current year (**GM2019**).

STATE TOURNAMENT

1. The league will pay ½ of the entry fee for all teams interested in playing the State Team 8 Ball Tournament as voted during the General Membership Meeting held August 23, 2004.
2. Players **MUST PLAY 8 WEEKS** to participate in this tournament.
3. For those years the VNEA state tournament is hosted "East River", the league will evenly distribute funds equaling one-half of the state entry fees for the total number of teams in the league, to those teams entering into the state tournament that season. Teams will be required to be registered and attend the state tournament, before these funds are distributed to them at the state tournament (**GM2019**). **CHANGED 08-16-2021:** The league will also pay the maximum of \$100.00 per team over the entry fees – or prorated on the number of teams going depending on the funds allocated.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

1. The league will continue to pay entries into the Nationals. We are allowed to send 1 team for every 8 teams in our League. **CHANGED 08-15-2022: There will be 3 spots awarded for teams in the play-offs for each division and 1 spot for a women's team.** 5% of the players in the Leagues Singles Tournaments will qualify for a paid entry to the VNEA National Tournament. These entries will be divided between the Divisions. These guidelines were voted at the August 2003 General Meeting.
2. Players must meet VNEA requirements for minimum number of weeks.

(If your team intends to go to the Nationals, you must notify a Board member ASAP. This will help the League bookkeeper in distributing funds prior to the Banquet.) Also, teams signing up for the National tournament must pay any entry fees, green fees, and administration fees that apply. Entry fees will be refunded to league qualifying teams at the National tournament site.

FORMAT FOR PLAYOFFS *(tentative plan/subject to change yearly)*

1. All teams qualify for the league playoffs in the Open Division. **CHANGED 8-11-2025:** For the 2025-2026 season only, the Board as discretion to fill the brackets for the playoffs. The Board of Directors also reserves the right to bump up a team into the next higher division if they feel it is in the interest of the tournament.
2. **CHANGED 08-15-2022:** The Board has the discretion on the format of the team playoffs depending on the location of the tournament and the number of teams. The Board has the discretion to have teams play on more than 2 tables if a match is slow or the tournament is running behind. If the first night of tournament play is held on Thursday night, it will be luck of the draw on where the teams will play and the Board has the discretion to determine how many teams the venues will have.
3. **CHANGED 08-11-2025:** Forfeit points for the playoffs will be 10 points per game.
4. During the team playoffs Open teams will be charged \$50.00/team green fees. The tables will be open. The money will come out of playoff money before the money is distributed.
5. In the league Singles playoffs, **CHANGED 8-11-2025:** For the 2025-2026 season only, the Board as discretion to fill the brackets for the playoffs. The Board of Directors also reserves the right to bump up a player into the next high division if they feel it is in the best interest of the tournament.
6. If you take 1st Place in the Singles Division you enter, you will be moved up to the next highest division for 3 years of entries into the tournament-not years played in the league. If you place 2nd thru 4th, you move up for the period of one year.
7. Teams will not move up. Teams are entered in the playoffs according to their scratch averages and divided into divisions accordingly.
8. Player substitutions (approved at 8/15/2016 general meeting) may be made during team playoff matches only (not regular season). The team making the substitution must notify the opposing team captain before the start of the round in which the player is substituted. The lowest handicap will be used for the entire match. If a player with a lower handicap is brought in as a substitute, that player's handicap is used for the ENTIRE match. Scores may need to be adjusted, based on

when each team adds in the handicap. Multiple substitutions may be made, but no player may play the same person twice.

9. **CHANGED 08-27-2018:** Amount allotted for city team tournament (playoffs) shall be 48-50% of the annual revenue from weekly dues collected. Tournament payout money will be determined by revenue collected.

These Bylaws have been accepted by the general membership and can only be changed by a majority vote of a general membership meeting, which includes votes at the banquet. This was determined by a majority vote at the general membership meeting.