



AMERICAN POPDARTS LEAGUE

THE MOST SATISFYING SPORT IN THE WORLD™

2026-2027 LEAGUE RULES

League play, sanctioning, scoring, and championship rules for certified APL clubs.

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EFFECTIVE 2026-2027 SEASON

L-1 LEAGUE QUALIFICATIONS

QUALIFICATIONS

APL will certify leagues participating in the game of competitive Popdarts provided they meet the following requirements.

Apply for APL certification by:

- Creating an Organizer profile, and
- Establishing a league club on Scoreholio, and
- Emailing **team@iplayapl.com** the organizer names and contact information for approval.

Leagues will consist of:

- Three or more players/teams with any club affiliation.
- A minimum of **four per-player games** submitted to the APL in round-robin format. Organizers may choose to exceed four games.
- Players are required to have at minimum a **Bronze APL membership** to compete in round robins.
- The organizer shall provide a leaderboard for the games played in scheduled competition. A spreadsheet is advised to maintain league records.
- All games must be played and conducted in strict compliance with the current-season APL rules.
- Organizers must govern their leagues and themselves by APL rules. Other club league rules may be added that do not conflict with APL rules.

SCHEDULE

- The Official APL "Full" Season begins on the **2nd Saturday in August** and ends on **July 31st** each year.
- Sanctioned league formats are divided into **four independent League Quarters** within the Full Season.
- Leagues run Quarters 1-4 in compliance with APL season dates.
- Players may register for the entire Quarter Season prior to the first week of match play.
- Clubs shall submit a minimum of four round-robins within each Quarter Season.
- Clubs run under the Round Robin format with a **minimum of four match games per player per week**.
- Round Robin weekly games count toward individual stats and intra-league standings for end-of-quarter club tournaments.
- Clubs run a League Championship tournament and submit only **one (1) bracket** at the end of each Quarter Season.
- Players must have a **minimum of three weeks** of league play on record, for the Quarter in that club, to qualify for the League Championship tournament.
- Players must be sanctioned to participate in the League Championship.
- Brackets are seeded from the Win/Loss record accumulated from the weekly round-robin games within the Quarter Season.

Each Quarter Season Championship bracket result is accepted for the National rankings system, provided:

- All scheduled / round-robin league weeks are submitted to the APL for approval.
- All players are sanctioned with the APL for the bracket tournament.

APL will determine the start and stop dates for Quarter Seasons each year.

NATIONAL POINTS / RANKINGS

- Players select a **primary club** to earn points from a variety of events.
- **League season points:** accumulated total from highest placement for each quarterly League Season Championship tournament (four total in a Full Season).

Tournament points:

- Highest finishes for up to **twelve (12) local** tournaments for the full season.
- Highest **four** placements in any **Conference** tournament during the season.
- Highest **three** placements from any **Regional** tournament during the season.
- Highest **two** placements at any **Destination Series** tournament during the season.

Closed tournaments do not provide points for rankings.

L-2 SANCTIONING FEE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to participate in an APL tournament, a player must:

- Have a current **APL Silver Membership or above**, or
- Pay, or show proof of payment of, **APL membership** before the start of the tournament.

Note: Failure to pay league fees could result in suspension or revocation of APL sanctioning.

L-3 LEAGUE FEES

League fees consist of the total paid for playing, the prize fund, and any other amount voted by the league. All league fees, including any entry or sponsor fee, are decided by the club organizer.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Can a player from one club join a league at a different club or venue?

Yes. A player is free to join as many leagues as they want. It is the player's choice which club they want as their primary, as long as there is one. Players need a primary club listed with their sanctioning in order to receive national ranking points.

Q Is the organizer or venue required to provide an open lane during league play?

The APL does not have a rule requiring open lanes be provided during league play. Whenever leagues have concerns regarding this issue, it is recommended the club organizer address the matter with center management.

Q May a league adopt a rule prohibiting members from practicing before league play?

The APL does not have a rule prohibiting practice games before league play. Because the league has no jurisdiction until play has commenced, this type of rule may infringe on the proprietor's rights as an independent business person. If the league wanted to adopt such a rule, the proprietor would have to be consulted first and agree to the restriction.

L-4 SCORES**SCORING PROCESS (IN LEAGUE PLAY)**

- 1 Scores must be recorded on Scoreholio in plain view of players.
- 2 Every round played shall be recorded.
- 3 Players shall record the scores of each game.
- 4 The Scoreholio app is the league's official record for the season.
- 5 Errors in scoring or calculation must be corrected by a league organizer immediately upon discovery.

SCORES LOST

When game(s) or round(s) within a game are irretrievably lost in the scoring process, the following procedures shall apply:

- Scores that can be documented or agreed upon by the players stand, and the game resumes from the point of interruption in regular order.
- Scores that cannot be documented or agreed upon by the players shall be replayed.

L-4.1 FAILURE TO COMPLETE GAME**WITH CAUSE**

- 1 When a player is unable to complete a game because of disability, injury, or emergency, the game will cease and scores will be recorded in the Scoreholio app.

WITHOUT CAUSE

- 1 When a player does not complete a game for reasons other than disability, injury, or emergency, the player forfeits the game entirely. The opposing player may choose to play out their remaining rounds to 21.
- 2 If there is any doubt of a player's reason for not being able to continue a game, the league board shall decide.
- 3 A player who leaves a game without cause cannot return to the same game.

L-4.2 PAUSE IN GAMEPLAY

A player who starts a game and then needs to pause due to appropriate reasons or an emergency may return to resume the game before completion of the round robin, unless the league rules do not allow a player to return.

L-4.3 REQUEST

Games must be played as scheduled, unless a request is made prior to the scheduled time and approved by a majority of the league, except for emergencies.

L-5 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

DEFINITION

League Championship: end-of-quarter competition conducted by leagues. The playoff bracket shall be conducted in a **double-elimination** format.

PROCEDURES

The following procedures apply, unless the league rules state otherwise:

- Competitions are conducted under the same rules governing league play during the regular season.
- When more than two players/teams are involved, a playoff from the competition shall decide the winner.
- Games are counted toward individual stats and badges.
- Points from placement are counted toward the APL Ranking Leaderboard.
- The league organizer arranges to have additional tables if needed.

L-5.1 SPECIAL CONTESTS

A special contest is competition for prize money scheduled by the league where the scores do not count toward regular league standings, such as a tournament. The following apply:

- 1 Participation must be limited to sanctioned players only.
- 2 APL tournament rules govern play.
- 3 Scores which qualify for APL awards will be recognized.
- 4 Games are counted toward individual stats and badges.

L-6 LEAGUE FEE ARREARAGES

A league can adopt a rule to declare games forfeited if participants in a lineup are not current in league fee payments (see the rule for nonpayment of league fees and dismissal procedures). A league that does not adopt such a rule is responsible for any loss incurred by such arrearage.