

# The Mark Wilson Diamond Billiard League

## GOAL: Improve The Image of The Sport

If you go to a golf tournament....then go to a pool tournament...either amateur or pro...you see two different sets of people. At the risk of being called politically incorrect, you see trailer trash at the pool tournament...and you see good upstanding middle to upper class people in the golf gallery. Why? What causes this? What can we do about it?

I suggest one HUGE reason why pool is dominated by that class of people is THE PLACE where pool is promoted. The BAR. It seems like every bar has a table or two. It is used to sell alcohol. It is where most pool league is played. The bar owner has ZERO interest in the sport. He simply wants his til to fill. League operators help him sell alcohol by running leagues which give the bar owner business on potentially slow week nights. It seems like a win win. And, it is. But more accurately it is a win win lose. The league operator wins. The bar wins. The sport loses. New rules are invented to appease bar customers who do not know real pool rules. Handicapping (a necessary evil) is ridiculously bad. And sandbagging prevails. No...it dominates. The existing bar league system creates, promotes and encourages sandbagging. Even if they work against it. The problem is....as long as league is a travel league, where players travel from bar to bar each week....you will never stop sandbagging. And as a result....those who are genuinely interested in the sport have a choice. Join the sandbaggers...or give up the game. Most love the game...refuse to give it up...so the option they choose is to 'work' their handicap just like everyone else does. And we get into this recurring cycle of doom. The players interest is NOT in getting better...but managing their handicap better. As a result...the sport suffers.

The image of the pool player is at an all time low. The image of the game is as bad as I've seen in my lifetime. It is viewed as a deceitful sport. Can you imagine two pool players posting their scores honestly like golfers do? OH MY.

My daughter played soccer. Started for 4 years in college. I never played soccer. I knew nothing about it. But, because of her interest in the game, I learned. To become interested I did not have to 'hold my nose' when I talked with other soccer enthusiasts. The soccer crowd was a crowd worthy of my participation. What if...you were Joe Average American...and your son/daughter showed an ability in pool. Where would you take them? There simply isn't any reasonable place to take them...without exposing them to an element that kills our sport. Which brings me to my idea....The Billiard Room Must Save The Sport. How?

We save it by forming a BILLIARD ROOM ONLY pool league....that is only played in rooms that are approved. To be approved your room has to pass certain qualifications. We can discuss the rest of those later. But...from a playing standpoint...THE MAIN QUALIFICATION IS....They must have Diamond Tables.

What would happen if...

We got 5 rooms in 50 states (on average) to join a Billiard Room Only Pool League. That's 250 rooms  
If each of those rooms had to have Diamond Tables to join the league.

If each room got 20 teams. That's 5000 teams

If each team paid \$50/week to play

If each session lasted 15 weeks.

If the room owner got \$10 of that \$50 for green fees.

If the Diamond Billiard League got \$10 of that \$50 for a national event.

If the local in house league got \$30 of that \$50 for their in house league payouts and qualifiers

If the players paid a \$20 membership fee each session.

Here is the math....

250 locations X 20 teams each = 5000 teams

5000 teams X \$10/week to Diamond Billiard League = \$50,000/wk

\$50,000/wk X 15 weeks = \$750,000 prize money

Here is a sample pay out of the prize money....

### **FIRST EVENT: Team Championship**

Each location plays down to a winner that goes to the state final.

Each state plays down to a winner.

50 teams advance to a national tournament.

1st	\$100,000
2nd	\$50,000
3rd	\$30,000
4th	\$20,000
5th/6th	\$10,000 ea (\$20,000)
7th/8th	\$5000 ea (\$10,000)
9-12	\$3000 ea (\$12000)
13-16	\$2000 ea (\$8000)
17-50	(these teams and the above have already won at least \$2000 by winning their inhouse league that qualified them for this event)
	\$250,000 TOTAL

## **SECONDEVENT: AllStar Tournament**

Each location picks an AllStar team of those who had the highest winning percentage of all the players in their league. A 5 man team AllStar event that pays as follows

1st	\$100,000
2nd	\$50,000
3rd	\$30,000
4th	\$20,000
5th-6h	\$10,000 ea (\$20,000)
7th-8th	\$5000 ea (\$10,000)
9-12	\$3000 ea (\$12000)
13-16	\$2000 ea (\$8000)
	\$250,000

This event is designed to encourage people to get better....to qualify for the AllStar event

## **THIRDEVENT: OPEN TO ALL WHO HAVE PLAYED IN THE LEAGUE**

A Tornment of 7's (HCP): \$60,000 in prize money

A tournament of 6's: \$50,000

A tournament of 5's: \$40,000

A tournament of 4's: \$30,000

A tournament of 3's: \$20,000

A tiered prize scale to encourage players to get better. The better they get the more money they get to play for.

Dress code enforced

Held in Billiard Rooms not hotels

All of this 3 TIMES PER YEAR

A billiard room only league run by and for people who have invested in the sport...not the corner bar who has little to no interest in the game.

That kind of prize money will attract immediate success.

Diamond will sell tables to rooms who want to be a part of this.