



# APPA Chairman's Report 2023

Friday, November 24, 2023, 19:00

Welcome Members,

As we reflect on the accomplishments made in 2023, it is with great pleasure that I present the Chairman's Report for the Australian Pool Players Association (APPA). This year has marked progress and growth for our organization, and I am proud to share our achievements with you.

## **1. OPEN Style Events and Inclusivity:**

In our commitment to inclusivity, APPA embraced OPEN style events, allowing not only citizens but also non-citizens to participate in our disciplines of 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball. This approach has not only broadened the pool of talent but has also strengthened the sense of community within our organization and its members.

## **2. Financial Health and Strategic Development:**

As we enter our 2nd year, APPA stands in a healthy financial position. This stability positions us to contribute meaningfully to the development of Juniors in our codes and extend support to emerging codes like Heyball. As we look towards 2024, we anticipate an even more promising future for APPA and its community.

## **3. Valuable Partnerships:**

Our financial stability is bolstered by valuable partnerships. Delahunty Construction has been an exceptional streaming partner assisting APPA cover considerable costs in bring the sport to the masses via the APPA social media and YouTube Channel. T140 as a dedicated event sponsor, and Carnell Cues, who generously fund our trophies are adding prestige and healthier prize funds to our events. We are very grateful to Predator Cues for the sets of Arcos Balls for our major events, which add consistency to our events with high quality equipment for the players to use. We would also like to acknowledge Digital Pool as our Tournament Software Partner and FargoRate. These partnerships not only enhance the quality of our competitions but also relieve considerable financial burden.

## **4. Collaboration and Coordination:**

APPA through its membership of CSA (Cue Sports Australia) continues to collaborate with national organizations such as the Australian Billiards and Snooker Council (ABSC) and the Australian Eight Ball Federation (AEBF). Our concerted efforts aim to minimize clashes of major events, recognizing the logistical complexities we sometimes face. Despite challenges, we strive for harmony, cooperation, and support within the broader community of cue sports.



## **5. Oceania Championships and International Unity:**

The hosting of the Oceania Championships in New Zealand has strengthened our ties with the New Zealand Pool Association (NZPA). We look forward to building on this strong foundation as we look to host the championships in Australia next year.

## **6. Successful Open Championships:**

This year witnessed three Open Championships for 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball held across Australia. The 8-ball event, graciously hosted by our friends in Adelaide, was a testament to the warmth extended by Empire Room owner Mr. Alec Evreniadis and his team. Special recognition also goes to James Georgiadis and Michael Cacciola for their dedicated efforts in organizing the event on behalf of APPA.

The APPA Open 10-ball at City Heroes Burwood in NSW was another resounding success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the entire APPA team. Special thanks to Marvin Monzon and Fleur Williamson for their tireless coordination. The support of volunteers like Pinar Yildirim and Simon Felice did not go unnoticed and greatly contributed to the smooth running of our events.

## **7. Recognition of Champions:**

The APPA Open Championships saw remarkable champions in both the Men's and Women's divisions. We applaud their skill, dedication, and sportsmanship, which embody the spirit of APPA.

APPA 8 Ball Men's 2023 Champion: Michael Cacciola (women's event was not played)

APPA 10 Ball Men's 2023 Champion – Justin Sajich

APPA 10 Ball Women's 2023 Champion – Bean Hung

APPA 9 Ball Men's 2023 Champion – Justin Sajich

APPA 9 Ball Women's 2023 Champion – Kenny Chandra

## **8. BLIVE and Barry Black:**

Our streaming partner, BLIVE, and the voice of Australian pool, Barry Black (formerly known as Mavros), have played a pivotal role in elevating the viewer experience. Barry's decade-long commitment and knowledge of the sport, coupled with his role as the Vice Chairman of APPA, have added another layer of enjoyment for fans and promotion of our events.



## 10. Non-Sanctioned Events

On 8 October 2023 the General Assembly of our governing body, the World Pool Association, passed a resolution relating to player participation in certain non-sanctioned events after 1 March 2024. We are obliged as a federation member of the OPBA, respect and that resolution. Whilst we acknowledge that this is not an ideal situation, we believe its impact on APPA players and OPBA members will be minimal. The resolution underwent extensive discussion among WPA Continental members and the resolution was passed by a majority vote.

In accordance with the resolution, the two sanctioned events 2024 Oceania Championships to be hosted in Australia and the 2024 Predator Pro Series in New Zealand will be directly affected by this resolution in relation to players who play in non-sanctioned events after 1 March 2024.

There is a lot of misinformation, particularly in social media, about sanctioning. The WPA sanctions significant events upon request from promoters of those events. It has done so for at least the last 20 years. I would like to emphasize the crucial role that event sanctioning plays in safeguarding the interests of players, promoters, and the events themselves. It ensures that events don't clash (which maximizes the players' opportunities to play) and that player protection policies are in place. In addition, recent incidents, such as the unfortunate demise of Pockets Sports, highlight the necessity of sanctioning. It serves as a protective mechanism to ensure that players receive their rightfully earned prize money in a timely manner. Sanctioning is required when an event includes players from other intercontinental memberships that make up a minimum of eight players or one-eighth of the field and has a prize fund on offer in excess of USD 30,000. The WPA is working hard to ensure that all relevant events are sanctioned.

It is important to note that there may be non-sanctioned international events that players may wish to enter after 1 March 2024. These events, if they meet the WPA sanctioning criteria but are not sanctioned by the WPA, will be affected by this resolution. The penalties that apply to all members of national bodies like APPA which are affiliated with the WPA are that in choosing to play one of these non-sanctioned they:

1. are also choosing to not participate in WPA sanctioned events on a National, Continental, and Global level.
2. will forfeit all WPA Rankings points; and
3. if they would like to return to WPA sanctioned events, the player will:
  - pay a fine of USD 500USD to their National Federation (e.g., APPA)
  - have to wait for 6 months from the date of their last non-sanctioned event before playing in a WPA sanctioned event.

If you are unsure about the status of an event, please contact APPA for guidance.



While navigating these changes, we can assure our players and members that APPA will strive to provide clarity and support. We recognize the importance of staying aligned with international standards and appreciate your understanding in this matter.

For any inquiries or concerns regarding the impact of non-sanctioned events on APPA, feel free to reach out to through our dedicated support channels.

While the recent resolution on non-sanctioned events may not be the most ideal situation for some of our members, I want to reassure you that we anticipate minimal impact on the majority. However, it's important to acknowledge that a minority may be affected, and we are committed to supporting them in the choices they make next year.

### **Closing**

In closing, I extend my gratitude to the resilient APPA community, our invaluable partners, dedicated volunteers, and the broader cue sports family. Together, we eagerly anticipate a future filled with prosperity and harmony for Australian pool. As we embark on the exciting journey ahead, I must refrain from revealing specific details at this time due to contractual considerations. Rest assured, the executive board is working diligently behind the scenes, anticipating significant developments in 2024.

Chairman APPA  
Stuart Rogers