

North Shore 9-Ball Frequently Asked Questions

What is North Shore 9-Ball?

North Shore 9-Ball is a year-round, Monday night, 21+ pool league with locations in Beverly, Salem, Peabody, Marblehead and Lynn designed to give players and teams of all ability levels a fair chance to compete and win.

When do league nights start and how long are matches?

League play on Monday nights begins at 7pm. Typical matches average between 3-3.5 hours if pace of play is consistent. However, matches can be played using 2 tables at the same time if 2 tables are available and the home team wants to do that. On average, matches played on 2 tables are finished in less than 2 hours.

Does it cost anything to join? How much are the weekly dues?

Each player in the league pays \$10 per season for national sanctioning and that's it to join the league. Weekly dues are \$40 per team, which works out to \$10 per player per week they play.

Do you charge sponsor fees to host locations?

No! All we require from host locations is that they agree to providing access to at least 1 table starting around 6:30pm on league nights and table time free of charge for league matches.

What is the nightly format?

Each team writes the names of their 4 players who will shoot for the night on their scoresheet. After both teams have filled in their roster, the teams exchange rosters, figure out the handicap difference and the match begins. A match consists of 4 rounds played in a round-robin format. Each player will shoot 2 games per round against all 4 players on the other team for a total of 8 games a night. As a note, this is not a ball-count league. We only keep track of Games Won and Games Lost, so it's real easy to keep score.

Will I be the same handicap in NS9B as I am in another league?

Most likely not because handicaps from other leagues do not directly translate due to format differences. New players are assigned a starting handicap based on previous pool league experience and their ability level translated to the NS9B format. After the player plays 5 weeks a more accurate number is created based on their matches played. Handicaps do not move up or down quite as quickly as they do in some other leagues.

How does the handicap system work?

The Team Handicap Comparison Format (THCF) works by adding the handicaps of each team's 4 players, rounding the total to a whole number, and then comparing each team's total handicap value. Based on the difference, the lower team handicap team may be awarded additional points per round. The goal of the THCF is to be an equalizer in terms of the match as a whole if there are differences in the team handicaps.

Are there payouts?

Yes. During the sessions there are payouts for placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in session standings and also in the session playoff. The amounts vary based on the number of teams and how many sessions they play.

How do the end-of-year tournaments work?

At the end of the year there are 2 tournaments, the Qualifier Tournament (an entry tournament) and the Shootout Tournament. By placing in 1st or 2nd in a session or session playoff teams earn a spot directly in the Shootout Tournament. By placing 3rd in a session or session playoff, or by winning the Second Chance Bracket in a session playoff teams earn a spot in the Qualifier Tournament. Every year we also draw at least 1 luck-of-the-draw team into the Qualifier Tournament from the teams who did not earn a spot in either tournament throughout the year. Typically, two teams win a spot in the Shootout through the Qualifier.

For more information, visit the Contact page on www.northshore9ball.com or email info@northshore9ball.com.