

Attention players, sponsors, and pool room hosts for the Northwest Women's Pool Association - a message from our president, Stephanie Drakulic:

Hello all, I want to take a moment to highlight some of the accomplishments and challenges we've had over the last four years since I became president of the NWP. I also want to announce and explain the increased membership and entry rates for the 2024 season.

We are increasing our admin/green fees from \$10 to \$20. This is the first increase of admin/green fees in 20 years. In 2019, we reduced the admin and green fees, while simultaneously seeking ways to drastically cut costs, to increase player participation.

**Previous rates (2019 through 2023):**

*Membership: \$45*

*Entry for members: \$45 (includes \$5 in admin and \$5 green fees)*

*Entry for non-members: \$55 (includes \$5 in admin and \$5 green fees)*

**New rates starting 2024:**

Membership: \$55

Entry for members: \$55 (includes \$10 in admin and \$10 green fees)

Entry for non-members: \$65 (includes \$10 in admin and \$10 green fees, and \$10 non-member fee which can roll towards conversion of membership after two events as a non-member)

These amounts bring us back to what they were prior to 2019, but with more "bang for the buck," and benefits to the players, sponsors, and pool rooms.

Now for a bit more detail/history...

When I (Stephanie) became president at the end of 2019, the NWP was overspending beyond their budget, and the bank account was in the negative. We scrambled to find quick solutions to stop the bleeding, while still investing in the growth of the NWP (rebranding, updated website, replacing old branded posters, name cards, etc.) Stephanie provided a loan to the NWP to cover the up-front costs for the rebranding/new website, getting the bank account above \$0, and investing in merchandise that could help raise funds to pay back this loan. And then Covid happened. \*crickets\*

But I'm very happy to report that all NWP debts have been fully paid back, and in the 2023 season, we were able to offset our tireless and dedicated tournament director's travel expenses by providing a portion of the hotel and gas costs. I want to personally thank Chris for sticking by our side and giving up any travel stipends that he'd grown accustomed to and paying his own way for all travel during the 2020 through beginning of 2023 seasons. Chris is always the first to arrive, last to leave, and hasn't wavered in his professionalism or dedication to the NWP, trusting us fully to course-correct.

The NWP is a non-profit, and none of us on the board (all of whom are players *and* board members, aside from Chris & Mike Dominguez) receive any compensation or travel stipends. We've all put countless hours of work into the tour behind the scenes, plus most of us show up to most tour stops, to PLAY, first and foremost, but also help when we can in ensuring the tournaments run as smoothly as possible.

That being said, the NWPA has grown significantly over the duration of my tenure. We're back to full seasons (six or more stops) at unique pool rooms, all over the northwest. We have new players at every tour stop, and many players from over the 20+ years of NWPA's existence have returned, exceeding an average of 36 players at every stop. We have more traffic on our website, and more viewers on our streaming channels, providing better visibility to our organization, and a platform to advertise for our sponsors and host pool rooms.

One of the other ways we attempted to save costs was to invest (as cheaply as possible) in our own streaming equipment and do the streams ourselves. Our intentions, as noble as they were, we felt were doing a disservice to the NWPA, as we couldn't provide the quality or consistency needed while also playing in the events. Along came one of our many heroes, Tyrel Datwyler, who graciously agreed to provide his own equipment and sit in the booth both days at every event, starting at stop #2 of our 2023 season. The viewership went up significantly, and we now have an incredible streaming service, all thanks to Tyrel. Mike Littman of Littman Lights, another hero, stepped in to cover Tyrel's travel costs, ensuring that we could entice Tyrel to stick around and continue.

In summary, I hope everyone will continue to support our beloved tour, as we grow, learn, improve, and demonstrate what a regional women's pool tour can be. We feel strongly that the quality of services we provide more than justifies the increase in expenses, and we'll continue to be transparent and forthcoming with what the money from our player base goes toward.

Thank you all,  
Stephanie