



Chairman's Annual Report to the Members of the Australian Pool Players Association (APPA)

Dear Members,

Reflecting on 2024, the Australian Pool Players Association (APPA) has achieved significant milestones in promoting American pool across the nation. Our dedication to excellence and inclusivity has been evident through our events, membership growth, strategic initiatives, and leadership enhancements.

Highlights of 2024

National and International Tournaments:

Heyball Champion of Champions and Oceania Heyball Open: In October, we hosted two prestigious international events at Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford. The Heyball Champion of Champions (October 3-6) and the Oceania Heyball Open (October 7-10) brought together top-tier talent from around the globe, with competitive prize pools and extensive media coverage, enhancing Australia's presence on the world stage. Notably, Justin Sajich (AUS) emerged as the champion of the Oceania Heyball Open, and Meng-Hsia Hung (AUS) reached the semifinals. These achievements underscore the depth and skill of Australian cue sports, showcasing the talent we continue to cultivate domestically.

The WPA Parasport Heyball World Championships will be held in Los Angeles, USA, from December 12-22, marking a key moment for cue sports on the path to Olympic inclusion. Australia proudly supports this inaugural event, presented by Joy Billiards and sanctioned by the WPA, with a strong contingent of 10 Parasport athletes and 10 referees. Every step forward brings us closer to our goal of securing cue sports' place in the 2032 Olympics.

Membership Growth and Cross-Code Collaboration:

This year, APPA saw a substantial increase in membership, fueled in part by our efforts to bridge the divide across various cue sports codes. APPA extended invitations to AEBF, ABSC, and Blackball National Champions, along with top-tier juniors, to participate in the first Heyball Oceania Open. This initiative aimed to bring together players from different codes, fostering a sense of unity and promoting cue sports in Australia as a whole. Our annual subscriptions offered members benefits like exclusive entry to marquee events and voting rights, ensuring a more connected and empowered player base. Additionally, our increased engagement on social media has strengthened our communication with members, keeping everyone informed and involved.



Leadership Enhancement:

We are pleased to announce **Pinar Yildirim's** appointment to the APPA Board. With seven years of experience in community and league play, Pinar brings valuable insights and a passion for making cue sports accessible to all ages and abilities. Her dedication to inclusivity and sportsmanship aligns with APPA's core values and strategic goals. With two decades of experience at CBA and a diploma in tourism, Pinar adds skills that will drive APPA forward, creating more value and opportunities for our members.

We are pleased to welcome **Neville Helou** as the APPA Parasport Delegate, bringing valuable guidance to the Executive Board on Parasport and disability matters. Neville's impactful work with the WPA Parasport Heyball World Championships has broadened our community, introducing more players to cue sports. He will join the Australian contingent heading to Los Angeles as a competitor in December to represent our nation at the WPA Parasport Heyball World Championships.

A special thanks to Mr. **Mark Harper**, appointed as Team Manager for this trip, who will be providing essential logistical support to our athletes abroad.

Affiliation with Pool ACT:

We are delighted to welcome Pool ACT as an affiliated state body under the leadership of President **Phillip Bush** and his committee. Their dedication to advancing American Pool and Heyball in the Australian Capital Territory aligns with APPA's mission to promote cue sports nationwide.

Strategic Partnership with ABSC:

This year marks a significant decision for APPA to affiliate with the Australian Billiards and Snooker Council (ABSC). This partnership aims to further drive cue sports towards our collective Olympic goal for 2032. Our joint affiliation demonstrates the leadership and commitment of both organizations to unite efforts, resources, and influence in making cue sports a part of the Olympic Games, establishing a strong foundation for growth and recognition on the world stage.

Planning and Future Initiatives for 2025

Junior Development Initiatives:

Recognizing the importance of nurturing young talent, we are planning on launching a junior development program in 2025 that includes coaching clinics, school partnerships, and access to resources for young players. This program is aimed at cultivating the next generation of pool talent in Australia and ensuring sustained growth for the sport.



Oceania Heyball Open 2025:

Building on the success of this year's event, the APPA team has been granted full autonomy to host the Oceania Heyball Open in 2025. This is a pivotal moment, showcasing APPA's capacity to independently organize world-class competitions that draw top talent and elevate Australia's standing in cue sports.

WPA Heyball World Championships in Australia:

We are thrilled to announce that the WPA Heyball World Championships, presented by Joy Billiards, will be held in Tweed Heads, Northern NSW. This is a fantastic opportunity and catalyst for cue sports in Australia, demonstrating our nation's growing recognition and influence in the global pool community.

Expansion of Women's and Youth Programs:

Following the success of this year's events, we plan to expand female and youth participation through targeted events and programs. These initiatives will continue to ensure pool remains accessible and appealing to diverse groups.

Enhanced Digital Resources:

As part of our ongoing commitment to technology, APPA has partnered with Digital Pool and FargoRate to incorporate globally recognized digital tools into our events and player tracking systems. These partnerships allow us to enhance scoring, statistics, and rankings on world-class platforms, meeting the demands of an ever-evolving digital landscape and ensuring our players' achievements are recognized internationally.

Acknowledgments

I extend my deepest gratitude to our members, volunteers, sponsors, and board members for their dedication and unwavering support. Together, we have strengthened Australia's cue sports community, and I look forward to an even brighter year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stuart Rogers'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Stuart Rogers

Chairman, Australian Pool Players Association