

Florian “Venom” Kohler crowned WPA World Artistic Pool Champion

The 2023 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship was held at the Bay City, MI branch of the Boys and Girls Club of the Great Lakes Bay Region. This year was unique as all the door proceeds, half the profit from program sales and cue ball sales was donated to the Club. It was the first time that our sport partnered with such a worthy cause. The tournament featured: a VIP dinner for players and sponsors, a limo service to and from venue to hotel, a total payout of \$15,400.00 all while raising \$1420.00 for the Boys and Girls Club.

Every professional sport will evolve over time and Artistic Pool is no exception. Many records that seem to be insurmountable when they are established, will still fall over time. In this day and age, the records that have defined the many different cue sport disciplines are falling one by one. Florian Kohler just broke his one hour and his 24 hour record for Trick Shots made and he also established the 48 hour Artistic Pool record. The 2023 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship gifted us with many firsts, many lasts and many records. Florian broke the preliminary round record on a nine foot table at this year’s tournament with 294 out of 320 points. The previous record of 282 out of 320 was set by Gabi “Mr. Perfect” Visoiu (Romania) at the 2019 Masters. Florian broke it by 12 points.

The tournament started out with 21 players attending from 5 different federations within the WPA umbrella. Countries represented were: USA, Canada, South Africa, Argentina, France and Taiwan. Players included former WPA World Champions, Chi-Ming Lin, Mike Massey and William DeYonker. Former WPA World Champion, Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Players shot 40 shots in a “golf” style trying to score as high as possible. During these preliminary rounds, we crowned 10 different WPA World Discipline Champions as well as a Rising Star Champion and a Sportsmanship Award recipient.

2023 WPA Artistic Pool World Championships									
	Trick & Fancy	Special Arts	Draw	Follow	Bank / Kick	Stroke	Jump	Masse	Total
Florian “Venom” Kohler	39	39	38	28	39	33	40	38	294
Gaston “The Prince” Tomadoni	38	40	38	38	38	23	37	25	277
William “Billie Joe” DeYonker	29	34	37	28	25	28	38	31	250
Abram “Too Tall” Diaz	38	40	36	29	23	22	39	20	247
Steve “Blue Shark” Markle	30	32	36	36	20	21	32	38	245
Tim “The Dragon” Chin	37	28	39	26	22	21	37	20	230
Jason “The Michigan Kid” Lynch	37	34	31	22	37	16	38	13	228
Jamie “Bayou Bullet” Moody	38	37	31	23	21	7	36	29	222
Maxence “JMASEM” Delattre	28	23	30	37	36	18	26	13	211
Wayne “The Cue Coach” Parker	27	35	29	31	28	21	19	20	210
Chi-Ming “Master Lin” Lin	40	28	31	17	20	14	28	30	208
Brian “Superman” Pauley	31	30	29	32	27	4	36	14	203
Keegan “Magic” Badour	28	31	27	28	22	12	40	15	203
Dan “Spear Thrower” Hosier	35	18	20	39	31	13	34	13	203
Jimmy “The General” Glanville	29	38	11	39	31	6	30	10	194
Anthony “The Specialist” Merced	19	19	28	31	15	6	29	26	173
Jordan “Pool Striker” Moreira	5	22	5	27	39	13	19	37	167
Tim “The Quiet Man” Gallagher	20	27	13	18	21	7	30	22	158
Mike “Pastor of Pool” Hewitt	20	27	23	14	23	14	14	0	135
Mike “The Tennessee Tarzan” Massey	30	18	14	23	14	13	-	-	112
Andrew “the Driver” Sozio	13	19	4	7	6	12	10	21	92

Denotes Rising Star Competition (Highest Scoring Player in less than three tournaments)

2023 (20th) WPA World Artistic Pool Championship		
Discipline Champions / Sportsmanship & Rising Star Recipients		
Trick / Fancy	Chi-Ming "Master Lin" Lin	40 out of 40 points
Special Arts	Gaston Tomadoni & Abram Diaz	40 out of 40 points
Draw	Tim Chin	39 out of 40 points
Follow	Jimmy Glanville	39 out of 40 points
Bank / Kick	Jordan Moreira	39 out of 40 points
Stroke	Florian Kohler	33 out of 40 points
Jump	Florian Kohler & Keegan Badour	40 out of 40 points
Masse	Florian Kohler	38 out of 40 points
Sportsmanship	Dan Hosier	By Player Vote
Rising Star	Keegan Badour	By Player Scores
Special WPA "Artistic Pool" Medal / Ribbon Awards Presented To Each Player Discipline Awards, Sportsmanship Recipient Award, And Rising Star Recipient Award Furnished By WPA Artistic Pool Division		

First Round Match ups and Scores for Friday night consisted of:

- (1) Florian Kohler 83 pts over (16) Anthony Merced 57 pts
- (2) Gaston Tomadoni 66 pts over (15) Jimmy Glanville 36 pts
- (3) William DeYonker 92 pts over (14) Dan Hosier 70 pts
- (4) Abram Diaz 91 pts over (13) Keegan Badour 45 pts
- (5) Steve Markle 77 pts over (12) Brian Pauley 33 pts
- (6) Tim Chin 82 pts over (11) Chi-Ming Lin 78 pts
- (10) Wayne Parker 67 over (7) Jason Lynch 66 pts
- (8) Jamie Moody 92 pts over (9) Maxence Delattre 86 pts

Second Round Matchups and Scores

- (1) Florian Kohler 103 pts over (8) Jamie Moody 66 pts
- (5) Steve Markle 79 pts over (4) Abram Diaz 69 pts
- (10) Wayne Parker 66 pts over (2) Gaston Tomadoni 51 pts
- (3) William DeYonker 79 pts over (6) Tim Chin 54 pts

Third Round Matchups and Scores

- (1) Florian Kohler 81 pts over (5) Steve Markle 31 pts
- (3) William DeYonker 69 pts over (10) Wayne Parker 49 pts

Finals

- (1) Florian Kohler 87 pts over (3) William DeYonker 39 pts

All throughout the tournament, Florian "Venom" Kohler seemed to be on a mission to earn the last title that has eluded him. He had placed second twice before in prior World Championships. This year he was not to be denied as he was never in danger of a loss in the playoff matches and easily defeated William "Billie Joe" DeYonker in the finals. We, the WPA Artistic Pool Division Board, congratulate Florian on his achievement

Overall Finish	Artistic Pool Player With Nickname	Prelim Score	Prize \$
1	Florian "Venom" Kohler (EUR)	294	3500
2	William "Billie Joe" DeYonker (US)	250	2500
3	Steve "Blue Shark" Markle (US)	245	1750
4	Wayne "The Cue Coach" Parker (AFRICA)	210	1200
5	Gaston "The Prince" Tomadoni (S. AM)	277	900
6	Abram "Too Tall" Diaz (US)	247	800
7	Tim "The Dragon" Chin (US)	230	700
8	Jamie "Bayou Bullet" Moody (US)	222	600
9	Jason "The Michigan Kid" Lynch (US)	228	425
10	Maxence "JMASEM Trickshots" Delattre (EUR)	211	400
11	Chi-Ming "Master Lin" Lin (ASIA)	208	375
12	Brian "Superman" Pauley (US)	203	300
13	Keegan "Magic" Badour (US) **	203	275
14	Dan "Spear Thrower" Hosier (US)	203	250
15	Jimmy "The General" Glanville (US)	194	225
16	Anthony "The Specialist" Merced (US) **	173	200
17	Jordan "Pool Striker" Moreira (EUR) **	167	0
18	Tim "The Quiet Man" Gallagher (CN) **	158	0
19	Mike "Pastor of Pool" Hewitt (US) **	135	0
20	Mike "Tennessee Tarzan" Massey (US)	112	0
21	Andrew "the Driver" Sozio (US)	92	0