OFFICIAL ARTISTIC POOL "TIMELINE" HISTORY

(ARTISTIC BLACKBALL & ARTISTIC POOL FREESTYLE INCLUDED)

Prior to 1990: Before the advent of "artistic pool" events, competitions were referred to as "trick shot", "fancy shot", and / or "skill shot" challenges / tournaments. Local, regional, national, and international events were held, some conducted by specific associations, such as the BCA (Billiard Congress of America), and others were sponsored and produced by private firms / organizations. Designated "world" and/or "open" title attachments were awarded to the champions of these competitions. The terms – "world" and "open" – were the point of controversy for many years, since each group conducting an event searched for rights, so to speak, for official status over such challenges. "Trick shot" competitors earned event "titles" and used them for market promotion as needed. Each claim to "world" and / or "open" title was generically validated within its own domain or organizational structure.

Note: Paul Gerni pioneered several special "trick shot" events in the international arena during this time…up until the start of the WPA sanctioned "World" Artistic Pool events in 2000. His efforts in this regard were a major catalyst in developing player interest on the competitive scene via a selective "invitation only" process his trick shot organization created. This entity name was the WTSAA (World Trick Shot Artist Association).

Some "titles" were determined by a shot/challenge program, ranging in number of shots from six to seventy-six, and others were determined by something as simple as seeing who could make the most number of balls in one legal stroke. Some were held on the pocket billiard table, and some on the snooker table. Some drew small audience numbers, and large arena groups witnessed others. Some were open to all players and some were restricted to a select few. Some were documented, but most have no public record today with detailed results. Through it all, a common thread was evident – A champion emerged, exhibiting highest skill levels and achieving victory in a competitive format challenging each would be participant.

These titles and/or victories etched a mark of excellence in the minds of those players achieving them, and created a following by thousands of fans…believing that each particular victor was a "true" champion. Each champion, no matter how competitively recognized, was a "world" and/or "open" champion at the time. Aside from the "hype" and marketing validity of each, a continued effort to provide the billiard industry and general public with the truest of "true" champions was warranted.

1979 – BCA National Trick Shot Tournament (Steve Geller & Suellen Warnes – Champions)

1980 – BCA National Trick Shot Tournament (Steve Geller & Debbie Smith – Champions)

1980 – BCA All American Trick Shot Tournament (Bob Williams & Vicki Frechen – Champions)

1982 – McDermott World Masters Open Trick Shot Championship (Tom Rossman – Champion)

1983 – Fredric Fechter of Cue Sport College International in Peoria, IL and others discovered and founded the discipline of the "Artistic Cue Sports". It was developed and practiced as a non-competitive teaching and learning discipline tool to obtain self-awareness of right thinking. It is the core of all artistic cueing disciplines. "Artistic Cue Sports" goals and purpose are to instill, guide, transform, and appreciate all "artistic" expressions of wholesome values found in what is real, valid, and good. An integration of the "Artistic Cue Sports" teaching and learning discipline into the mainstream of education has abundantly blessed many individuals. "Artistic Cue Sports" has greatly helped in the creation of many professionals and talented cueing champions in the world today.

Note: The above “Artistic Cue Sports” statement was given to me by Fredric Fechter on December 30, 2004…with an assurance that it would be presented in any future releases of our sport history. Having worked with Fred during the formative years of applying the “Artistic Cue Sports” to specific teaching and learning situations, I, Tom Rossman, agree with this historical connection to our sport.

1990 – “Artistic pocket billiards”, more commonly referred to as “artistic pool”, was envisioned as a special sport “gift” by Tom and Marty Rossman of Dr. Cue Promotions in July…to “crusade” the growth and appeal of pocket billiards worldwide with a new and enlightened discipline image.

1991 – The term “artistic pocket billiards” (“artistic pool”) was copyrighted by Tom Rossman through Banks, Tricks, & “Kicks”, a “Dr. Cue” training product…designed to instruct and entertain with 70 trick, fancy, skill, and “novelty” challenges. Included was a format of photo, diagram, and objective explanation for each, plus a section entitled “adjustment analysis”, which one could use to help in making fine tuned and intricate adjustments for any particular shot / challenge…if a miss should occur.

Degree of Difficulty (D.O.D.) was assigned to specific challenges in order to provide an idea of how hard they might be, which tended to enhance individual learning curves. In addition, this gave direction in conducting “artistic pool” competitions through a valid scoring process.

The competitive mode was patterned after “artistic billiards”, which is presented on the “carom” table. This had been for many years and is today a popular cue sport activity in Europe and other continental venues. A multitude of “artistic” cueing wizards on the “non pocket” table have long been a fascination to thousands of cue sport fans. The main focus of the infant “artistic pool” concept was on the “beauty” of the art form, as opposed to presenting only the hardest shots possible that could be attempted on a pool table. The modern-day pioneering foundation for the new cueing attraction called “artistic pool” had begun.

1992 / 1993 – “Artistic pool” event proposals were sent to industry contacts in the fall of 1992 and competitions were started by Dr. Cue Promotions for amateur players in 1993 at the BCA North American Championships, plus 3 youthful divisions of the BCA Junior Nationals. Player entry response and audience enjoyment was evident from the very beginning. BCA / BEF (Billiard Education Foundation) artistic pool involvement continues to present day for juniors…with a change to 4 divisions of “artistic” challenge in 2005, 8 divisions in 2018, and 6 divisions in 2019. BCA amateur links continue today under the BCAPL umbrella system.

All BCA / BCAPL amateur and BCA / BEF junior venue sites / details at: www.drcuepromotions.com -- “past, present, future” menu tab)

1994 – Canadian Open “Artistic Pool” Championship held at Festival De Billiard (Nick Nikolaidis – Champion)

1995 – Amateur players at the annual VNEA International event joined the competitive process in their inaugural “artistic pool” event…with continued “artistic” play to date. (Venue sites / details at: www.drcuepromotions.com -- “past, present, future” menu tab)

1996 – Junior players for the VNEA began their competitive “artistic pool” journey with 3 age divisions of challenge and repeat renewal each year. (Venue sites / details at: www.drcuepromotions.com -- “past, present, future” menu tab)

1997 – North American Trick and Fancy Shots Championship promoted by TASA (Trick & "Artistic" Shooter's Association – Larry Grindinger, Founder and Sport Pioneer) of Atlanta, GA and sanctioned by the Billiard Congress of America. George Middleditch and Tom Rossman were Co – Champions. Note: Larry also conducted other select state and local events to promote “artistic pool” during this decade timeframe.

1998 – World TASA “Trick Shot” Championship promoted by Trick & "Artistic" Shooter's Association Note: Larry Grindinger served as the dedicated promoter and director for his event productions.

1999 – Jorgen Sandman, President of the WCBS (World Confederation of Billiard Sports) held a meeting in July with Mike Massey, Paul Gerni, Tom Rossman, Belinda Campos, Tom Overbeck (WPA board member), Dick Montgomery, and John Lewis, Secretary / Treasurer of the WPA (World Pool Billiard Association). This meeting berthed a democratically run committee process for developing credible and sanctioned World and Continental Championships for professional "artistic pool".

The WPA "Artistic Pool" General Committee was formed to develop format structure, shot programs, tournament venue preparations, and sponsor attachments. The initial committee members included Tom Rossman (Chairman), Paul Gerni, Robert Byrne, Michael Shamos, Tom Overbeck, Dick Montgomery, and John Lewis. The "General Committee" evolved into the WPA Artistic Pool Division (WPA APD) in 2002 with official sport discipline recognition by the WPA/WCBS. It enlisted the help of international members Jim Sommer from Denmark, Arkadiy Loshakov from Russia, and Dimitri Yushkovskij from Ukraine. A host of other sport crusaders from around the world have served the WPA Artistic Pool Division in various capacities and during different time periods since 2002…with heartfelt contributions of time, talent, and money to help grow "artistic pool" in the worldwide billiard arena.

Steve Lillis served as Chairman of the "General Committee" (2001 / 2002) and Chairman of the WPA Artistic Pool Division (2002 – 2004). Tom Rossman served as "General Committee" Consultant (2001 and 2002), and WPA Artistic Pool Division President (2002 – 2005). Nate Bryant became President of the WPA Artistic Pool Division on January 1, 2006…assuring emphasis on long term growth for artistic pool within the international billiard community and fulfillment of the primary responsibilities applicable to his position with specific focus on the recognition, promotion, and development of "artistic pool" worldwide. Tom Rossman resigned from the WPA APD after devoting 6+ years of pioneering service to the political side of "artistic pool"…to pursue private promoter interests with his wife Marty, all the while sharing the sport "beauty, promise, and vision" with others.

The WPA Shot Selection Committee was established to take international player input for shots and / or challenges, and then vote on a final program for Continental Championships and the World Finals. This committee was unbiased in shot selection, in that the members on it could not play in future competitions. Those agreeing to this requirement were Chairman Michael Shamos, Robert Byrne, "Fast Eddie" Parker, Willie Jopling (Bill Marshall), and Belinda Campos.

This special committee began their work in earnest, completing their task on December 20, 1999. The final 40 shot program was indeed difficult to develop, as over 325 shots/challenges were player contributed to the initial collection base from throughout the world. Eight disciplines were defined and arranged in priority sequence for orderly player challenge and audience appeal, with "degree of difficulty" assignment to most of the challenges and a "special scoring" process as required in some such as Wing Shots.

Note: In 2001 Fredric Fechter assumed Chairman duties when Michael Shamos became WPA Shot Selection Committee Consultant. "Fast Eddie" Parker passed away the same year…after contributing valuable input and effort to the committee work…in pursuit of a personal dream to see "artistic pool" become an Olympic sport.

The initial championships were BCA/WPA endorsed and sanctioned, producing a hope for worldwide recognition. Each event on the initial "artistic pool" competitive scene and the special events that followed have helped maintain a verifiable and credible accent to "artistic pool" history. The term – "World Title" became a resounding success for the entire sport movement with the WPA as the organizational structure that has Olympic connection, all the while establishing a pocket billiard niche for future events in the international arena of cue sport. Pioneering and blended efforts from the WPA Artistic Pool Division, continental player groups, and a growing base of private promoters would help to assure long-term growth, promotional effort, and player harmony vital to any sport development.

2000 – <u>"Artistic Pool" became an official sport discipline as recognized by the WPA, under the WCBS in the international arena of worldwide sport structure established for billiards.</u> A three-fold player message of professional image, professional demeanor, and professional skills became focused amenities for the sport at the pro level with a special bonding to the positive amateur / junior movement, as it garnered new player interest day by day.

Special Note: The sport definition for "artistic pool" and the 8 discipline names with respective definitions under this umbrella word were ratified via a special guidelines document developed exclusively for our sport by the WPA. This gave credibility to the overall "artistic pool" champion and the 8 discipline champions that would be determined at each event held. Similar to gymnastics in its structure, "artistic pool" offered multi-faceted opportunities for receiving championship recognition 9 different ways; thereby creating greater interest in player participation and promotional appeal.

2000 to 2004 – BCA North American "Artistic Pool" Championship events (Venue sites / details at: www.drcuepromotions.com -- "past, present, future" menu tab)

2002 to 2004 – EPBF European "Artistic Pool" Championship events (Venue sites / details at: www.drcuepromotions.com -- "past, present, future" menu tab)

2000 to present – WPA World "Artistic Pool" Championship events (Venue sites / details at: www.drcuepromotions.com -- "past, present, future" menu tab)

Note: The trio efforts of junior, amateur, and professional level "artistic pool" challenges enhanced this special "crusade" to give everyone, at any age and any skill level, an opportunity to express skills magnetic to the viewing public.

2003 – Sport support from the newly created International Artistic Poolplayers Association, with its IAPA acronym and "artistic" logo. This was the first player's group committee to help acquire, direct, and promote future artistic pool events.

Note: In August of 2003 an international request went out to all players for any and all shots of their choice by appropriate text and graphic format. A subsequent vote within the player member database established "fine tuned" challenge selections (56 total) and a "new" program printing by the fall of 2004…for player practice and general market purchase. Annual reviews of this expanded program would be done by the player member database. This would assure a "hands on" approach within the "artistic pool" player structure to update issues of "degree of difficulty" assignment, text/graphic modifications, and selecting appropriate replacement shots, when necessary. A "master book of program shots/challenges" was also planned for the 2005 tour season to increase event shot selection, player challenge, and fan appreciation in consideration of replacement shots. This latter project was completed and placed online according to schedule.

2004 – Sport training / player incentive programs at all skill levels to spur sport interest and reward past participation were created by Dr. Cue Promotions. New competitive concepts and enhanced recognition of all artistic skills, using the gifts / talents of an expanding player/fan base became a main focus of many promoters.

2005 – APTSA (Artistic Pool and Trick Shot Association) acronym replaced the IAPA name as a US based player group. ACS and APA amateur "artistic pool" competitions start in 2005 & 2007 respectively and continue yearly.

2006 – 1st ever-Lithuanian "Artistic Pool" Championship held and establishment of special training for Lithuanian players interested in "artistic pool" (Conducted by Mark Dimick and Tom Rossman)

2007 Recap (Since 2000) – The sport of "artistic pool" continues to be magnetic at all skill levels and is growing at a fever pace worldwide with internet shot creations, online forum topics, and significant new player interest and contributions around the globe. Notable events contributing to the overall promotional effort follow:

- The 8th Annual WPA World Artistic Pool Championship in St. Petersburg, Russia celebrates the largest international player / country representation ever for this prestigious event
- The various professional events in our short sport history have included the Comet Classic, the Northeastern Artistic Pool Open, the Las Vegas Artistic Pool Open, the Masters Artistic Pool Championship, and the US Open Artistic Pool Championship (Player promotion linked via the IAPA committee originally and later the APTSA "board").

- ESPN enjoys 8 years of the exciting Trick Shot Magic match play challenge and presents its second year of the World Cup of Trick Shots – a special multi-player format of Team USA vs. Team Europe with 4 players representing each. Billiards International promotes both.
- Barry Hearn continues his ever-popular Snooker Trick Shot Challenge in Europe using a special audience review of invited player presentations.
- Select private promoters produce "trick shot" challenges around the world…keeping the public aware of the magnetic appeal of "trick shots and so much more".
- Production and promotion of Dr. Cue Classic Artistic Pool Tour with 4 league foundational tour stops and a grand finale Dr. Cue Classic "Artistic" Cup event. Development of new player / fan entertainment "sport and show" entity entitled Artistic Pool Playing Artists (APPA).
- New 7 member APTSA "board" starts their term in November with Stacy Mendrick (nicknamed the "1st lady of trick shots") joining the player led organization

2008 to present day (2024) – The crusade of "artistic pool" / "artistic blackball" marches on stabilized by the foundational events of the past, along with new and exciting events / updates in its overall sport journey as follows:

- The Dr. Cue Classic Artistic Cup events continue to showcase the "sport and show" of artistic pool: (Cup I – 1/08 – KY; Cup II – 11/08 – CT; Cup III – 11/09 – MD; Cup IV – 12/10 – MO; Cup V – 12/11 – IL; Cup VI – 11/12 – IN; Cup VII – 12/13 – FL; Partners Cup I – 8/14 – NJ). Players include a stellar base of professional "Artistic Pool Playing Artists" from around the globe. A novel "reunion style" atmosphere is enjoyed by all in attendance!! (Venue sites / details at: www.drcuepromotions.com -- "past, present, future" menu tab)
- The Extreme Pool Challenge highlights the "trick shots and so much more" trail as an innovative "invited only" competition of talented "artistic pool playing artists" from around the world...held at the APA National Team League Championships in Las Vegas, NV – Renamed Ultimate Challenge in 2009 and continuing in 2012.
- Masters Artistic Pool Championship celebrates 7 years of excitement with Nick Nikolaidis winning 2010 event
- Dr. Cue Promotions releases expanded 58 shot/challenge Master Challenge Program for Cup events (2010)
- The Ultimate Trick Shot Tour continues (2011 – 2016) with creative "artistic freestyle" challenges at regional / national events under special private promoter titles / formats and non-federation attached venues.
- ESPN World Cup of Trick Shots (2006 – 2013); Trick Shot Magic (2000 – 2010), plus (2013 – 2016).
- The WPA World Artistic Pool Championship embraces its 11th event as the credible sport foundation with its largest field ever (36 players) – Hopkins Super Expo in Oaks, PA (03/2012) + 12th – 2013 (Las Vegas, NV) + 13th – 2014 (Las Vegas, NV) + 14th – 2015 (Kennesaw / Atlanta, GA) + 15th – 2016 (Oklahoma City, OK) + 16th – 2017 (Xingcheng, China – largest payouts to date) + 17th – 2018 (Houston, TX) + 18th – 2019 (Parkersburg, WV) + 19th – 2022 (Parkersburg, WV) + 20th -- 2023 (Bay City, MI) + 21st – 2024 (Bay City, MI) + 22nd -- 2026 (Philadelphia, PA).
- Mark Dimick becomes new President of the WPA Artistic Pool Division in October of 2009 as Nate Bryant fulfills 3+ years of dedicated presidential service to the international Artistic Pool movement under the WPA.
- APTSA forms a new 13 player board led by Tom Kinzel as Chairman – New ideas / direction accent sport
- APTSA releases a new, expanded 120-shot/challenge program in 2010 for player challenge and special fan enjoyment and tweaks it in 2011 for their new tour initiatives program of Artistic Pool Majors. Artistic Pool Shootouts and Artistic Pool Room Cups are included in new APTSA National Ranking System for all events.
- In Search Of Cue-Dean-"E" International Talent Search for "table trotters" of pool (2009/2010/2011/2012)
- First Artistic Pool event held in China (World Class Artistic Pool Masters Cup – special invite) promoted by Henry Chen / WPPA (July, 2012) – Results at www.drcuepromotions.com ("past, present, future menu tab")
- Dr. Cue National Artistic Pool Lag Challenge provides exciting option for fans and players alike (2010 - 2019)
- First Artistic Pool event in Argentina (USA vs. Rest of The World): 3-player team competition developed and promoted by Sebastian and Angela Giumelli (October, 2013) – Team Champion (Rest of the World)
- WPA Artistic Pool Division with valued player input continues to monitor / fine tune the new WPA recognized World-Ranking System for professional Artistic Pool in 2013 and beyond.
- WPA Artistic Pool Division approves creation of a "sport education document" for Artistic Pool in 2014 to create a better "foundation" understanding for event developments within the international WPA federation structure, player entity groups, & private promoter interests; thereby, encouraging a coordinated and "open" disclosure" effort among all parties to take Artistic Pool to the next level and beyond!

- WPA Artistic Pool Division approves new guidelines in 2014 for world ranked events to increase opportunities for players, federations, promoters, and other interested parties to develop three types of competitive events (A / B / C) in consideration of player travel expenses and sport expansion around the world.
- WPA Artistic Pool Division expands board to 11 members in late 2014, continues social network connection at www.facebook.com/artisticpoolworldwide, introduces new website in early 2015 at www.wpa-apd.org, and releases an updated 2015 Master Shot / Challenge Program on April 30, 2015 (subject to annual reviews).
- WPA Artistic Pool Division approves guidelines for Artistic Pool "Freestyle" world ranking events (5/31/15).
- Masters Artistic Pool Championship renewed in 2015 – William DeYonker wins in record-breaking fashion!!
- William DeYonker sets world scoring record of 296 points on 7-foot table…as 2016 WPA WC AP Champion!
- Special "freestyle & fixed program" events continue under select private "trick shot" promoter labels!
- Social network explosion of videos, tutorials, and special groups for "trick shots and so much more"!!
- Sebastian "The Matador" Giumelli from Argentina conquers one of the toughest fields in Artistic Pool history, winning the 2017 WPA WC in China – amazing first-time victory after playing in 13 out of 16 WC's to date!!
- Florian Kohler hosts private promoter partners team event called Grand Prix of Trick Shots in December 2016 at magnetic Skillcon Sports Convention (Las Vegas, NV) - Florian Kohler & Stefano Pelinga Champion Team!
- Gabi Visoiu from Romania wins the 2018 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship held in Houston, Texas (February 2019). This is his second WPA World title in the magnetic sport of Artistic Pool (overall champion)!
- Brian Pauley becomes new President of the WPA Artistic Pool Division in March of 2019 as Mark Dimick fulfills 9+ years of dedicated presidential service to the international Artistic Pool movement under the WPA
- Chi-Ming Lin from Taiwan triumphs over a determined field of professional Artistic Pool Playing Artists at the 2019 WPA WC in West Virginia. "Master Lin" made his Artistic Pool sport debut at the 2006 WPA WC in MN, finishing in 13th place, but through dedicated practice and competitive challenge over the years, he fulfilled his dream of becoming the official WPA World Artistic Pool Champion. Congratulations for a job well done!
- Covid pandemic halts all Artistic Pool event programming for 2020 in competitive arenas, however special player shots continue to be presented online by a growing player interest…to entertain and teach the creative nature of Artistic Pool.
- Select online event challenges continue via the promotional efforts of William DeYonker.
- Special online outreach starts on Facebook and YouTube in October of 2020 via Gospel Trick Shot Ministries and the RACK Room Vision…sharing the joy of Artistic Pool to encourage viewers worldwide with the hope and reality that the "sport gift" of Artistic Pool can uplift spirits even during the most difficult of times.
- Curtis "The Redneck Cue Guy" Robertson (Abilene, Texas) died in a tragic plane crash in late 2020. Curtis was instrumental in promoting the most Artistic Pool Shootouts in history; trained hundreds of junior and amateur players to help expand the sport of Artistic Pool, develop, finance, and legalize new player code of conduct guidelines working with Mark Dimick, WPA APD President and other board members for the worldwide sport movement, and was internationally famous as an Artistic Pool professional and masterpiece cue maker. The spirit of Curtis will continue to inspire an untold number of players interested in "trick shots & so much more". Curtis also created a one-of-a-kind cue for outreach ministry work called the Witness Cue!
- Fredric Fechter of Cue Sport College International in Peoria, IL passed away in early 2021 – Fred and others discovered and presented the bigger picture of the "Artistic Cue Sports" in 1983, from which the "sport gift" of Artistic Pool evolved in 1991 via the promotional and founding efforts of Tom and Marty Rossman. Fred will long be remembered for his devotion / valued contributions to our unique cue sport movement.
- Artistic Pool competitive renewal takes place with the VNEA International Amateur Artistic Pool events (26th year) at Bally's in Las Vegas (late May / early June of 2021); BEF / BCA National Junior Artistic Pool event (27th year) at South Point in Las Vegas (July, 2021), and VNEA International Junior Artistic Pool event (25th year) at Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA (July, 2021) -- events continue to present day.
- Continued efforts to develop, promote, and direct Artistic Pool challenge events at physical locations in junior, amateur, and professional arenas, plus creative online presentations by various Artistic Pool Playing Artists.
- WPA Artistic Pool Division confirms WPA World-Ranked events in 2021, 2022, & 2023 – National Artistic Pool Championships in Lynchburg, VA at The Clubhouse. Champions: Abram Diaz (2021) / Tim Chin (2022) / Steve Markle (2023).

- Chi-Ming Lin repeats his 2020 victory performance at The League Room in Parkersburg, WV by winning the 2022 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship in a come-from-behind manner with a one-point scoring margin! His back-to-back WPA World Artistic Pool titles radiate focused dedication to practice and competition since his debut to Artistic Pool in 2006. Congratulations are in order for Chi-Ming Lin, as he becomes an inspiration to veteran / up-and-coming Artistic Pool Playing Artists for years to come.
- The 2023 Masters Artistic Pool Championship was title-sponsored under Premier Billiards at The Clubhouse Bar & Billiards in Lynchburg, VA. A determined and spirited Theo Mihellis wins it all and Tim Chin cascades into the number one spot on the official WPA World Artistic Pool Rankings after a "top 3" finish.
- The South African Artistic Pool Championship became the first-ever "artistic" event to take place on the African continent. It was held at the Gold Reef Hotel & Casino in Johannesburg, South Africa…under the administrative arm of Wayne Parker, who also became the overall event champion, with three discipline wins.
- Jason Lynch becomes new President of the WPA Artistic Pool Division in February of 2024 as Brian Pauley fulfills 5 years of dedicated presidential service to the International Artistic Pool movement under the WPA.
- Florian Kohler played flawlessly in the 2023 WPA World Artistic Pool Championships in Bay City, MI to take home the gold medal, and set a new record for the highest score ever for 40 program shots on a 9-foot table -- an amazing 294 points! Florian has not only become an internet sensation for Artistic Pool "Freestyle" shots, but also in unique presentations of his special form of "artistic" entertainment worldwide. Congrats, Florian!!
- The "sport gift" of Artistic Blackball held its 1st ever "pilot" event in Johannesburg, South Africa 10/16-23/2023. The GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup under the stable arm of the WPA Artistic Pool Division introduced this magnetic player / fan-friendly attraction to the "Artistic Cue Sports" competitive environment. 38 players completed the event program of 21 shots/challenges and 2 tiebreakers. An overall champion (Wayne Parker – South Africa), 8 discipline champions, and 1 sportsmanship recipient graced the exciting and skilled field of competitors.
- Wayne Parker spearheads the development of two "Artistic Pool" events in 2023 (Open and Masters) and one "Artistic Blackball" event in 2024 (Classic) – all in South Africa…pioneering a bright future for the "Artistic Cue Sports" in the African continent and acting as a beacon of hope to the "hearts" of many worldwide… working in conjunction with the GTS/RACK ministry team to ambassador this special outreach movement.
- Artistic Blackball establishes a stepping stone blueprint for future events under the WPA and its 6 continental federations worldwide, with the 1st ever WPA World Artistic Blackball Championship in Bridlington, England from 10/11 – 10/20, 2024. The WPA Artistic Pool Division, along with the GTS/RACK ministry outreach team administered over this largest "artistic event" field ever with 46 players. Wayne Parker (South Africa) won the official WPA World Artistic Blackball Championship "overall" title. History was also made during this event, as all in attendance witnessed the 1st time ever that a woman won a WPA World Artistic title. Joy Willenberg (South Africa) earned that distinct honor by scoring 28 out of a possible 30 points in the Stroke Discipline
- Florian "The Venom" Kohler repeats his victory performance at The Boys / Girls Club in Bay City, MI by winning the 2024 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship. The highest points total in the prelims, plus wide margins of victory in each playoff match cemented his back-to-back WPA World Artistic Pool titles and illustrate championship skills that will surely produce many more event victories in the foreseeable future. Congratulations are in order for Florian, as he becomes an inspiration to up-and-coming Artistic Pool Playing Artists for years to come and as he etches another achievement mark in Artistic Pool history.
- The sport of Artistic Pool celebrates its silver anniversary (25th year) of competition with the magnetic 2024 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship in Bay City, MI.
- The WPA Artistic Pool Division established the Artistic Pool Hall of Fame with a special ceremony and banquet during the 2024 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship. There were three inaugural inductees – Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman, Mike "Tennessee Tarzan" Massey, and George "One More Time George" Middleditch. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the festive occasion with special introductions and personal journey experiences for each inductee. Custom-designed Artistic Pool HOF awards were presented as well.
- The Masters Artistic Pool "Freestyle" event debuted in June 2025 under the administrative arm of the Artistic Pool Division. The inaugural event was held at the Clubhouse Bar & Grill in Lynchburg, VA and was won by Florian Kohler…going undefeated in its special format. More "Freestyle Artistic Pool" is on the horizon!
- The U.S. National Artistic Pool "Freestyle" Championship debuted in June of 2026 as the 2nd successful "freestyle" event in its storied history. Steve Markle went undefeated in this magnetic event in prep for the first-event WPA World Artistic Pool "Freestyle Championship from October 1 - 4, 2026 in Philadelphia, PA

- Wayne Parker of South Africa becomes new President of the WPA Artistic Pool Division Council in April of 2026 as Jason Lynch fulfills over 2 years of dedicated presidential service to the International Artistic Pool movement, creating many new sport focus items, producing 2 WPA World AP Championships in Bay City, MI, and overseeing the transfer of the Artistic Pool Division board to the Artistic Pool Division Council, which becomes a direct line of WPA oversight on Artistic Pool worldwide...under its political / global umbrella.
- France debuts 2 "open" Artistic Pool Championships under the leadership / promotional arms of Jordan Moreira and Maxence Delattre...with long-term plans of Artistic Pool expansion for the players of France
- Veteran player Jamie Moody and long-time sport supporter starting in the VNEA amateur events all the way to the heights of the professional movement, won the 2026 U.S. National Artistic Pool Championship at the League Room in Parkersburg, WV. This was his first major event victory in his competitive pro career after years of disciplined practice and a focused competitive spirit. Congrats, Jamie!
- 1st ever tandem WPA World Championships scheduled for Philadelphia, PA in October of 2026 -- 2 events at once for Artistic Pool -- AP Book Format WC (22nd event), plus 1st official Freestyle AP WC under the WPA!
- Florian "Venom" Kohler accomplished an awesome feat of competitive dominance at the aforementioned "twin" WPA World Championships -- winning his 3rd Artistic Pool WC (Book Format) in a row, plus taking home the victory gold at the inaugural WPA World Freestyle Artistic Pool Championship. Congratulations to Florian for his amazing championship victories on the same weekend -- 2 WPA WC's -- incredible!!
- Philadelphia "twin" Artistic Pool events (Book and Freestyle formats) welcomed 22 players from 6 continents and 8 countries within the WPA (World Pool Association) domain. Largest continental representation ever!
- The WPA APDC expands its focus on developing a multi-division inaugural WPA World Junior Artistic Pool Championship, plus the first-ever WPA World Women's Artistic Pool Championship. In addition, work has begun for the debut of a WPA World Artistic Chinese Pool (Heyball) Championship. These 3 event developments are part of a bigger goal of IOC submission in consideration for the 2032 Brisbane, Australia Olympics.
- Overall, there is a VERY promising future for the magnetic sports of Artistic Pool (Book and Freestyle formats), Artistic Blackball, and Artistic Chinese Pool (Heyball)...in the expanding competitive, entertainment, and outreach arenas connected to all of the "Artistic Cue Sports"!!

THE FUTURE – BEAUTY... PROMISE… VISION…

…For The "Sport Gifts" Of Artistic Pool, Artistic Blackball, & Artistic Freestyle

...Stay Tuned!!

Document compiled and verified by:

Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman, Artistic Pool Foundation Historian **Updated as of October 5, 2026**

Note: All of the contents in this document are verified by historical records on file for the specific political, player, private promoter, event, and select individual affiliations referenced.