



**OHIO POOL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**News letter**

On Tuesday May 5, 2015 Anita Sparks posted on The OPPA's Facebook page:

In support of all the bars that support our teams: Why would you move a TOURNAMENT game to a bar that doesn't support this league??? As a bar owner, that would not sit well with me. These bars support our teams with paying our entry fees for the season. We need to support them. This is like a slap in the face by moving to a bar that is not, and does not support this League. I would not blame any of these bars if they would back out of supporting this league. Where would this league be if that happened???? Just saying, this move makes no sense at all..... Why bite the hand that feeds you?????

Here is OPPA's response to Anita and all OPPA members;

To put this issue into perspective here are a few facts you also need to consider;

1. The board's primary concerns and focus are on issues that directly affect the quality and fairness of the league format for the league members.

2. During last year's 2014 tournament process we received numerous complaints, from players on numerous teams, about the fact that we always held the tournament finals at the same location. As a result of those conversations with members the board decided to run the 2015 tournament semifinals and finals at a neutral site

A. The primary difference between the complaints from the 2014 tournament and this year's 2015 tournament are 1) the 2014 complaints came from players on teams whose home bars were not the sight of the finals. These players complained that the teams whose home bar was the finals location had a distinct advantage over their opponents. 2) After the 2014 tournament the board considered these complaints and decided that the complaints were justified and decided at that time to take the 2015 tournament finals to a neutral site. This decision was announced at the 2014 banquet and reiterated in newsletters and throughout the year in casual conversations between board members and membership.

B. The 2015 complaints are primary as Anita states in her post "How can we justify supporting a bar that does not sponsor a team in our league and that it is just not fair to the bar owners that do sponsor our league members." This issue was also discussed and taken into consideration prior to our final decision following the 2014 tournament. At that time the Board decided that the fairest move we could make would be to move the finals to a neutral site.

3. The commitment we make to the bar owners is that they will receive their fair share of home games during the 15 week league session. To add additional support to our sponsors we have also committed the first round of each

session to be held at the home bar of the team that finishes higher than the opponent. Everything beyond those first two rounds has always been subject to change. This year not only have we played rounds one and two at home bars, we have also scheduled some of the matches in rounds three and four at home bars. As a result the home bars have had more tournament exposure this year than in past years.

Keep in mind that to run a proper tournament we have to do our best to complete the tournament with in a reasonable amount of time and the logistics of delivering the score sheets and rosters to the right location in a timely manner.

So far this years format has worked very well. That does not mean that we will not consider tweaking our format for the 2016 tournament. As a board we are always looking for ways to improve our format and find ways to level the playing field for all players. We will continue to look for ways to improve our format. If you or any member feels they have suggestion or idea that will improve our format and gives all teams an equal opportunity to win your board members are willing and waiting to hear from you.

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