

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE AMATEURS

Statistics show we have added more than 14,000 players to our organization in the last ten years. These are all beginners. In order to keep abreast of this rapid growth, and for other reasons, too, the Amateur tournament was promoted.

In 1957 we held our first state Amateur tournament; last season we held about twenty-three tournaments. In the season ahead we expect to hold as many Amateur tournaments as Expert. This is just to show how very popular this tournament has become.

Yes, the Amateurs are here to stay.

Recently, however, there was a very unpopular and, we think, unwise ruling made, forcing a player out of Amateur and into Experts after two first place wins.

Those of you who witnessed our Last Roundup and other Amateur tournaments last season surely must agree that winning several times would not qualify them to compete with the Experts.

Then, too, last season there were widespread reports of players throwing their game, rather than being forced into the Expert division before they are seasoned qualified players.

The Amateurs are very much exercised over this unpopular rule, and pray with you fine officers to give it your careful attention, and, if possible, to rescind Article 6-B, then divide shuffleboard into two divisions: Expert and Amateur. Let the club who will host an Amateur tournament know it may, if it so chooses, divide its players into two groups—those who have won in Amateur A division, and those who have not won in the B division.

Let the Amateur know he is invited, welcome, and urged to play with the Experts when he so desires. But if he should win, then, and then only, does he become an expert. We are sure there was not one Expert tournament last season that did not have many Amateurs trying to battle their way out of Amateur. And a goodly number, did, too.

Another rule passed last season was the Draw rule. We are neither for or against Draw or Seed.

Let's let this rule be optional with the host club. If the rule is bad, it will fall; if good, it will live.

Let's have less rules and regulations and more shuffling for fun, fellowship, and goodwill.

Past President, Florida Shuffleboard Ass'n — J. H. WOODALL