

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOULS OR NOT

- Q. I accidentally touch the Cue Ball, is this a foul?
A. Yes.
- Q. I accidentally move an object ball with my hand or Cue Stick, is this a foul?
A. No.
- Q. I shoot and the Cue Ball does not touch another ball, is this a foul?
A. Yes.
- Q. I kick at a ball, but after hitting my object ball nothing hits a rail, did I foul?
A. Yes.
- Q. I hit my ball first, but my opponent's ball was the only ball to hit a rail, did I foul?
A. No.
- Q. I knock the Cue Ball off the table, is this a foul?
A. Yes.
- Q. The other team calls for too many time outs, is this a foul?
A. No. The act of calling a time out does not create a foul, but may result in a Sportsmanship violation.
- Q. The other team is coaching from the side, is this a foul?
A. Yes, if their player is at the table.
- Q. By the rule, my opponent called my object ball frozen and I agreed, what must I do so I do not foul?
A. Lets say it is the three ball that is frozen:
(a) the three ball would have to be driven into another rail
(b) the Cue Ball may strike the three and then any rail
(c) any ball is pocketed after contacting the three or
(d) you pocket the three
(e) be careful here, the object ball must be hit first in any instance.
- Q. As in the above question, my Cue Ball hits the three and the rail at the same time and nothing else happens, did I foul?
A. Yes.
- Q. When placing the Cue Ball on the table, the Cue Ball touches another ball, is this a foul?
A. Yes.
- Q. I have ball in hand, can I move the Cue Ball with my stick?
A. Yes, as long as you are not stroking your shot and only positioning the cue ball.
- Q. I shoot, but I accidentally move another ball and the Cue Ball strikes the ball I move before I have a chance to put the ball back, did I foul?
A. Yes.
- Q. My opponent breaks down his/her stick while I am shooting the eight ball, is this a foul?
A. No, but it may be addressed as unsportsmanlike conduct and the team could be protested. Some LO's consider this sharking. The shooter may stop and ask if they have just conceded the game. If so, the shooter doesn't have to continue with the shot and he wins. Remember, the only one that can be sharked is the shooting player, not his team sitting on the sidelines.
- Q. Is it a foul for the coach to touch the playing surface of the table?
A. No.
- Q. Is it a foul for the coach to place the Cue Ball in a ball in hand situation if I have a time out?
A. No, as long as it's during a time out.

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

KEEPING SCORE

- Q. What is an inning?
A. You mark the inning after the second player misses.
- Q. Does the second player ever change?
A. No, the second player is always the player that lost the lag.
- Q. What is a defensive shot?
A. When there is no intent to make a ball.
- Q. Is it important to record defensive shots?
A. Very important, by not marking these shots you have created sandbagging.
- Q. Can anyone keep score?
A. Any APA member on the competing teams can keep score. Non-members cannot keep score.

THE LAG

- Q. Do we have to lag at the same time?
A. Yes.
- Q. Can I use the Cue Ball to lag with?
A. No.
- Q. If I hit the side rail, do I lose the lag?
A. Yes.
- Q. If I pocket my ball, do I lose the lag?
A. Yes.
- Q. If our balls hit each other, do we re-lag?
A. Yes.
- Q. If I do not want to break, can I give up the lag to my opponent?
A. Yes.

RACKING

- Q. What is a legal rack?
A. Eight ball in the middle, rack tight and the front ball on the spot for 8-ball. The one ball in front and on the spot and the nine ball in the middle for 9-ball.
- Q. Does the One ball have to be in front?
A. Only in 9-ball.

BREAKING

- Q. What is a Legal Break?
A. For eight ball, strike the 1st or 2nd ball, drive four or more balls to the rail or pocket at least one ball. For nine ball, strike the one ball first, drive four or more balls to the rail or pocket at least one ball.
- Q. What if I do **not** drive four or more balls to the rail or pocket a ball?
A. Your opponent reracks and you break again and again and again. There is no limit on the number of tries you may do.
- Q. What if I do **not** drive four or more balls to the rail or make a ball and I scratch?
A. You lose the break and rerack for your opponent.
- Q. What if the Cue Ball does **not** strike the rack?

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BREAKING (cont'd)

- Q. Can I reach out and grab the Cue Ball before it hits the rack?
A. If you are quick enough.
- Q. If I make a solid and a stripe on the break, is the table still open?
A. You could have made three solids and one stripe and the table would still be open.

THE EIGHT BALL

- Q. Does the Eight Ball have to go in clean?
A. No, you can carom it off another ball, as long as you hit the Eight Ball first.
- Q. Can I make my ball by shooting the Eight Ball into it?
A. No.
- Q. Can I use the Eight Ball in the middle of a combination?
A. Yes.
- Q. Can I use a combination to make the Eight Ball?
A. No.
- Q. Can anyone remind me to mark the pocket?
A. Yes.
- Q. What can I use to mark the pocket for the Eight Ball?
A. You can use anything that you would not ordinarily find on a pool table (such as a coaster). No chalk, quarters, or folded money, even if the money is in a money clip. Your wallet or any special coins like the armed forces coins, commemorative coins, or a \$.50 piece are okay. No guns, knives, or weapons of any kind can be used!
- Q. I knock the Eight Ball onto the floor, do I lose?
A. Yes
- Q. My hand or cue stick accidentally knocks the Eight Ball into a pocket, do I lose?
A. No, you must put the Eight Ball back where it was before you moved it.
- Q. I move the Eight Ball with my hand or cue stick by accident, is this a foul?
A. No, you must return the Eight Ball to its original position.

SPLIT TABLE RULE

- Q. My opponent wants to split tables, do I have to?
A. Yes, if the following is true:
1. You are **not** in the fourth match two hours after the first match started.
2. There is a table available. You cannot run other customers off. Your remaining teammates also cannot tie up the table.

23 RULE (OPEN) – 19 RULE (LADIES)

- Q. I play four players that equal 20 and I do not have a 3 or a 2 on my roster, did I just forfeit all my games?
A. Yes.
- Q. I play four players that equal 20 and I have a 3 on my roster who is not present, do I have to play my 4 or 5 who is present?
A. No, simply put that players name on the scoresheet and forfeit the last match; no team can force you to break the 23 rule.
- Q. When is the 23 rule actually broken?
A. When the first rack is broken in the match the violation occurs.

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

23 RULE (OPEN) – 19 RULE (LADIES) (cont'd)

- Q. After we lag and before the rack is broken, my opponent realizes they will break the rule; can they stop and pick another player?
A. Yes. You also can pick another player.
- Q. I play as a 6 and I am shooting a new player, does my 6 count towards the 23 rule?
A. Yes.
- Q. I play as a new player, what do I count towards the 23 rule?
A. Eight ball: Four (men); Three (women). Nine ball: Four (men); Two (women).
- Q. The other team broke the 23 rule, what do we do?
A. Mark the violation on both score sheets before you sign them. Once signed, the matches stand!
- Q. How many points do we win for a 23 rule violation?
A. Five.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- Q. I played years ago in another city or state, do I start over as a new player?
A. No. You must play at your old skill level and the League Operator must be informed of your skill level when you rejoin the league, prior to the first night of play.
- Q. If only four players show up, do we still have to pay the \$30.00?
A. Yes. It's \$30.00 per team per week.
- Q. My opponent disrupts me while I am shooting, what do I do?
A. File a complaint which can lead to point fines on the offending team or removal of the offensive player from the league. Other suggestions: when an opponent becomes annoying tell his/her team captain. If this continues, call the League Operator for advice.
- Q. How far back is the non-shooting player to be away from the table?
A. Six feet if area permits.
- Q. How many time outs do I get?
A. New player, skill level 2, and skill level 3 are allowed two time outs per game. All other skill levels are allowed only one time out per game.
- Q. Can I talk to my team while my opponent is shooting?
A. Yes. As soon as he or she misses, you must walk away.
- Q. Are Jump Shots legal?
A. Yes, if executed correctly.
No, if the Host Location has a sign that states No Jump Shots.
- Q. Are Masse Shots legal?
A. Yes, but they will not be allowed if the Host Location has a sign that states No Masse Shots.
- Q. Is there a one foot on the floor rule?
A. Yes, but to be enforced, the Host Location must have a bridge available.
- Q. I move a ball by accident before shooting, is the ball placed back to its original position?
A. Yes, prior to shooting.
- Q. I move a ball by accident while shooting, is the ball placed back to its original position?
A. Yes, after the Cue Ball stops. (See Fouls)

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS (cont'd)

- Q. I knock a ball off the table, what do I do with it?
A. You spot it as soon as your present turn is over.
- Q. I knock the five off the table, but I pocket the two, what do I do?
A. You continue shooting until you miss or need the ball because it is your last playable ball, then you spot it.
- Q. When is a game a stalemate?
A. When neither player can make use of ball-in-hand. For example, you pick up the cue ball and hand it to your opponent giving him ball-in-hand. He looks the table over and decides to hand it back to you, giving you ball-in-hand. If at this point you cannot use ball-in hand, the game is determined to be a stalemate.
- Q. What happens when a stalemated game occurs?
A. The balls are reracked; the innings for the stalemated game are crossed off of the scoresheet; each player is marked for a defensive shot, and the game is restarted.