

8-BALL POOL

AAPPA condensed rules (Updated 12/14/2015)

Racking the balls before the game starts: The 8-ball must be in the middle of third row; stripes and solids generally alternate in the rack; one back corner ball must be a stripe and the other a solid.

Taking the first shot (break shot): The first person to break is by agreement, lag or coin flip; winners break subsequent games. Either player can rack the balls; but breaker must check balls are correctly racked. On a legal break, the cue ball is played from anywhere behind the head string; any object ball may be hit first, at least one object ball must be pocketed or at least four object balls must contact a rail and, if not, the break is illegal and the non-breaker may either: 1) Play table as is, or 2) Have shooter re-break, or 3) Re-break himself. If an object ball is pocketed your turn continues unless you commit a foul. If the 8-ball is pocketed on a legal break, it is a win; if a foul is also committed, it is a loss. Scratch on the break has non-breaker shoot from anywhere in the kitchen towards the rack end.

Legal shots:

Open table: After the break, because solids or stripes are not yet assigned, the table is “open” even if balls are pocketed on the break. When the table is open, any ball may be struck first by the cue ball. You can, for example, hit a solid or eight ball first to pocket a called striped ball.

Closed table: The table becomes closed once solids or stripes are assigned to a player by his pocketing a called numbered solid or striped ball in a called pocket without fouling. For a legal shot on a closed table the first object ball struck by the cue ball must belong to the ball group (solid or stripe) assigned to the player. The 8-ball may not be struck first unless all the balls assigned to the shooter have been pocketed. For a legal shot, the cue ball must contact a legal object ball first, and then, if an object ball is not pocketed, the cue ball or any other ball must contact a rail. If the first object ball contacted by the cue ball is frozen to a rail and nothing is pocketed, a ball must still hit a rail after the frozen ball leaves the rail. Shooter must call the intended object ball and pocket and if he fails to do so, on non obvious shots, his turn ends even if he pockets the ball. If any ball except the cue ball is pocketed, it remains pocketed. If the called ball is not pocketed in the called pocket your inning is over and the other player starts his or her turn at the table. If a ball falls into a pocket without being struck, or more than five seconds after coming to apparent rest, it shall be replaced as near as possible to where it was.

Fouls: In games without a referee, it is the responsibility of each player, before the next shot, to call attention to any foul they notice. If a foul is committed opponent gets cue ball in hand and can place it anywhere on the playing surface for the next shot. The following are fouls: cue ball is pocketed (scratched); you don't hit one of your object balls first; no ball contacts a rail after cue ball hits object ball; the cue tip hits the cue ball more than once; the cue tip remains in contact with the cue ball much longer than with a normal stroke (push shot); shooter moves the cue ball before the shot; shooter allows a moving ball to contact a foreign object (e.g. his or her cue, hand, clothes or rest); neither foot is in contact with the floor during cue ball impact; jump shots are attempted. A player must continue his or her turn at the table until he fouls or fails to pocket a called ball in a called pocket or unless shooter calls a “safety shot”. Safety shots must be called before the shot and if the player then legally pockets the object ball the other player begins his or her turn. Accidental movement of a still object ball by cue, hand, rest, clothing etc; results in non shooter either accepting the position as is, or moving the balls back to the original position. If the shooter replaces the balls without the non shooter's permission it is a foul. Any ball, except eight ball and cue ball, driven off the table is loss of turn, not a foul. Balls driven off the table remain off the table except cue ball. Cue ball driven off table is a scratch, eight ball is a loss.

Winning the game: After your group of balls has been pocketed you win if, on a subsequent shot, you pocket the 8-ball without committing a foul. You also win if the 8-ball is pocketed on a legal break shot. You win if your opponent does any of the following: fouls when pocketing the 8-ball including pocketing the eight ball on the same shot as the last of his or her object balls; drives the 8-ball off the table; pockets the 8-ball before his or her group of balls has been pocketed (except on a break shot); pockets the 8-ball in a pocket other than the called pocket.