

Friday, January 24, 2014

I appreciate each and every one of you that has participated in the weekly Wednesday Night Team 8-Ball Tournaments!

We've had a couple of questions come up recently about rules interpretation, so I thought I would send out this message regarding the ones in question. Most of you already know these and play by these, but some people that don't often play in our tournaments may need this clarification. The printed House Rules are always present during our tournaments in a black notebook that can be viewed by anybody at any time before or during the tournaments. A printed version of this rules clarification will now be a part of that notebook.

Rules regarding the break:

1. Make 8-ball on break and breaker does not scratch: game is won by the breaker immediately and is finished.
2. Make 8-ball on break and breaker scratches or cue ball leaves the table surface: game is lost by the breaker immediately and is finished.
3. No balls made on the break: open table for the next shooter.
4. Breaker makes one ball on the break and does not scratch: the type of ball made becomes the breaker's balls for that game (solids or stripes).
5. Breaker makes two balls on the break (one solid and one stripe) and does not scratch: table is still open.
6. Breaker makes two balls on the break (one solid and one stripe) and scratches: table is still open.
7. Breaker makes three or more balls on the break (some solids and some stripes) and does not scratch: the breaker's group of balls (solids or stripes) is determined by the majority the breaker made.
8. Breaker makes three or more balls on the break (some solids and some stripes) and scratches: table is still open.

Rules regarding calling the each shot:

1. Called shot is defined as calling a legal object ball to be pocketed and the pocket in which it is to be pocketed. As long as a player shoots a legal shot and the object ball called is pocketed in the called pocket, no matter how it gets there, the shot is good. Any extra balls that are pocketed in a legal shot stay pocketed.

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2. A legal shot is defined as:

a. The shooter pockets a legal called ball in the called pocket. Pocketing the called ball in any other pocket other than the one called is a foul and the shooter's turn has ended and the next shot is awarded to the non-shooting opponent with the cue ball remaining in place.

b. The shooter's cue ball touches any numbered ball on the table, on an open table, with the exception of the eight ball, and drives either it or any other ball after contact or the cue ball to a rail.

c. The shooter's cue ball touches a numbered ball that corresponds with the shooter's ball group (solids or stripes), once determined, before hitting any other ball, and driving any ball or the cue ball to a rail thereafter, or pocketing any ball except the eight ball (unless player is on the eight ball).

3. Any failure to perform a legal shot is a foul and the shooter's turn has ended and the next shot is awarded to the non-shooting opponent with the cue ball remaining in place.

4. Obvious shots need not be called, though if an opponent doesn't recognize the shot he retains the right to ask the shooter, before the shooter goes down on the shot, what ball and pocket are called. None of the following are considered obvious, even in their simplest forms: banks, kicks, combinations, and masse. All of these shots need to be called.

5. Opponent has the right to ask the shooter which ball and pocket is being called if it is not clearly obvious. If a shot seems obvious, and the ball shot goes into another pocket and a dispute arises, a referee will make a final determination.

Rules regarding playing the 8-Ball:

When playing the eight ball:

1. The eight ball must always be the first ball contacted by the cue ball, and it or any other ball including the cue ball must contact a rail after the initial hit. Failure to do this is a foul and the opponent is awarded the next shot; it is not a loss of game.

2. The eight ball must be pocketed cleanly (no combinations or kisses) and the eight ball must be pocketed exactly as the shooter has called it to be pocketed (single or multiple banks all called before the shot).

3. Pocketing the eight in the wrong pocket is a loss of game.

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4. If a player scratches or jumps the cue ball so that it comes to rest off the playing surface of the table while playing the eight ball, it is a loss of game. Not making a legal hit on the eight ball, but leaving the cue ball on the table, is a foul and the opponent is awarded the next shot. It is not an automatic loss of game.

Again, thanks to each and every one of you that have helped make Wednesday nights at Post 8561 fun again!

Gary Davis  
Tournament Director