

CLARIFICATION OF POOL RULES

1. TOUCHING BALL. E.P.A. rule 8a.

The player must fire away from a touching ball. It does not matter if the ball he is touching is his own, his opponents or the black. If he moves the object ball with the cue ball at all this is a foul.

If the ball he is touching is his opponents or the black, he must make contact with a ball of his own. If he is touching his own ball it is classed as if he has already played that ball (i.e. made contact with it with the cue ball) and when he plays his shot he does not have to make contact with any other ball. If he does, this will not be a foul, even if he hits his opponents ball or the black.

2. FOUL BREAK. E.P.A. rule 4a.

This occurs when a player breaks and two balls do not make contact with any of the cushions (unless an object ball is potted which means no foul has been committed and play carries on as normal). The game is re-racked and the opposing player breaks with two visits. This is an open table not a free table.

The only other time the game is re-racked at the start is if the player breaking pots the black on that shot. Then the game is restarted by the same player without any penalty.

3. FOUL SHOT ON BREAK.

A foul committed on the break other than the above does not result in a re-rack. The opposing player has an open table with two shots and can either play from where the white has landed or ask the referee for white ball in hand and play from behind the baulk line.

4. POTTING BALLS OF BOTH COLOURS FROM THE BREAK OR AS THE FIRST LEGAL BALLS POTTED.

If balls of both colours are potted in the same shot, either from the break or at any time on an open table, then the player making the pots must nominate which colour he wishes to be on. Even if he fails to pot a ball on his next visit he is on the colour he chose. It does not matter how many balls of each colour were originally potted it is the players choice, (however if any number of balls were potted on a foul shot on break these are not counted at all) the player has an open table with two shots and is on the first legal ball potted.

5. OPEN TABLE WITH TWO SHOTS.

If a player has two shots on an open table (after either a foul or a foul break) he cannot pot a ball of one colour with his first shot and then change to the other colour. You have to take the first legal ball potted as your nominated colour. See E.P.A. rule 4e. Some players are confusing an open table with a free table. You can only have a free ball if you already know the colour that you're on.

6. FREE TABLE WITH TWO SHOTS.

If a player has two shots on a free table (after a foul has occurred) he may take his next shot from where the ball has landed or ask for white ball in hand. He can pot his own ball or his opponents ball with his first shot. He may also hit the black onto his or his opponents ball if he so chooses, but on his second shot he has to play his own ball. See rule 4i.

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7. GENERAL FOULS.

I have not put all the fouls in this list. You all know most of them, these are just the ones I think may have caused some concern.

E.P.A. 5(e) Jump shot. If the white ball jumps over any ball before it makes contact with our own ball this is a foul.

E.P.A. 5(g) Ball off the table. If an object ball lands off the table it is placed on the black spot or as near as possible, it is not put down a pocket. If it is the white ball the opponent has the white ball in hand.

A ball is counted as off the table if it comes to rest other than on the bed of the table. i.e. on the slate.

E.P.A. 5(p) Push shot. A push shot occurs when the cue tip is still in contact with the white whilst the white is touching the object ball. Also if the cue tip is still touching the white when the white has begun to move.

The referee is the only person who may call a push shot. If you are playing and you believe your opponent has made a push shot then ask the referee, but his decision is final.

PUSH SHOT IS A FOUL IN THIS LEAGUE.

8. LOSS OF GAME. (8)

There has been some confusion over ending the game. E.P.A. rule 7(a) states that the black ball has to be potted after all the other balls in your own group. Some people have taken this to mean that as long as the coloured ball goes down the pocket first the black ball can be potted in the same shot. E.P.A. rule 7(c) clearly states, 'A PLAYER POTTING THE BLACK AND ANY OTHER BALL ON THE SAME SHOT WILL LOSE'. This will not be so when the player has two shots and only the black and the opponents balls are on the table. In this case on the first visit on the free table he may pot the black and his opponents ball or balls at the same time. i.e. in one shot.

E.P.A. 7(d) A player who CLEARLY makes no attempt to play his own ball will lose the game. Please note the word clearly, this decision is once again down to the referee. This is why you have to ensure that any ref you have is clear on the rules and is not going to be intimidated into making a decision because someone thinks a foul has or has not been committed. A player may ask the ref if he thinks his opponent is not making an effort but the REFEREE'S DECISION IS FINAL.

9. CONTROL OF THE TABLE. (9)

Once a player has taken control of the table, (this occurs when his body, clothing or equipment touches the table prior to his shot) any balls that fall in are classed as having been touched. The player is then liable for any penalties or benefits that would normally be awarded for potting them, providing he makes a legal shot at this visit. Any fouls committed during this visit even if a ball falls in.

A player may sometimes make a foul because of outside interference. This means that his shot has ACCIDENTLY been interfered with e.g. causing him to miscue and make a foul shot. If this occurs the referee should replace any balls moved into their original positions before this occurred including the white and the player re-takes his shot with no penalty. If the referee thinks that any interference occurred on purpose in order to gain an advantage then he must make a ruling accordingly. Either give a foul or in extreme cases give the game to the innocent party.

10. RE-RACK.

Should the situation arise where it is IMPOSSIBLE for a legal shot to be taken when the game is reracked and the same player breaks. If the shot looks impossible but the white ball will go through any gap available then this is not a rerack. It does not matter how difficult the shot would be if the white goes through then a shot is deemed to be possible. If the referee thinks that a player is not attempting to go for his own ball because he knows he will foul then he must evoke E.P.A. rule 7(d). See notes above.