



POOL TOURNAMENT HOUSE RULES

1. The Object of the Game. Eight Ball is a game played with a cue ball and fifteen object balls, numbered 1 through 15. One player must pocket balls of the group numbered 1 through 7 (solid colors), while the other player has 9 through 15 (stripes). **THE PLAYER POCKETING THEIR GROUP FIRST AND THEN LEGALLY POCKETING THE 8-BALL WINS THE GAME.**

3. Racking the Balls. The balls are racked in a triangle at the foot of the table with the 8-ball in the center of the triangle, the first ball of the rack on the footspot, a stripe ball in one corner of the rack and a solid ball in the other corner.

4. Alternating Break. Winner of the coin toss has the option to break. During individual competition, players will alternate breaking on each subsequent game.

5. Jump and Masse Shot Foul. No Jump or Masse shots are allowed.

6. Legal Break Shot. (Defined) To execute a legal break, the breaker (with the cue ball behind the spot) must either (1) pocket a ball, or (2) drive at least four numbered balls to the rail. If they fail to make a legal break, it is a foul, and the incoming player has the option of (1) accepting the table in position and shooting, or (2) having the balls reracked and having the option of shooting the opening break himself or allowing the offending player to rebreak.

7. Foul on Legal Break - If a player fouls on a legal break shot, (1) all balls pocketed remain pocketed (exception, the 8-ball: see rule 9), (2) it is a foul, (3) the table is open. **PLEASE NOTE:** Incoming player has cue ball in hand behind the and may not shoot an object ball that is behind the head string, unless he first shoots the cue ball past the headstring and causes the cue ball to come back behind the headstring and hit the object ball.

8. Object Balls jumped off the Table on the Break. If a player jumps an object ball off the table on the break shot, it is a foul and the incoming player has the option of (1) accepting the table in position and shooting, or (2) taking cue ball in hand behind the head string and shooting.

9. 8-Ball Pocketed on the Break. If the 8-ball is pocketed on the break, the breaker may ask for a re-rack or have the 8-ball spotted and continue shooting. If the breaker fouls while pocketing the 8-ball on the break, the incoming player has the option of a re-rack or having the 8-ball spotted and begin shooting with ball in hand behind the headstring.

10. Open Table. - (Defined) The table is "open" when the choice of groups (stripes or solids) has not yet been determined. When the table is open, it is legal to hit a solid first to make a stripe or vice-versa. **Note:** The table is always open immediately after the break shot. When the table is open it is legal to hit any solid or stripe or the 8-ball first in the process of pocketing the called stripe or solid. However, when the table is open and the 8-ball is the first ball contacted, no stripe or solid may be scored in favor of the shooter. The shooter loses their turn; any balls pocketed remain pocketed; and the incoming player addresses the balls with the table still open. On an open table, all illegally pocketed balls remain pocketed.

11. Choice of Group. The choice of stripes or solids is not determined on the break even if balls are made from only one or both groups. **THE TABLE IS ALWAYS OPEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BREAK SHOT.** The choice of group is determined only when a player legally pockets an object ball after the break shot.

12. Legal Shot. (Defined) On all shots (except on the break and when the table is open), the shooter must hit one of their group of balls first and (1) pocket a numbered ball, or (2) cause the cue ball or any numbered ball to contact a rail. **NOTE:** It is permissible for the shooter to bank the cue ball off a rail before contacting their object ball; however, after contact with their object ball, an object ball must be pocketed, **OR** the cue ball or any numbered ball must contact a rail. Failure to meet these requirements is a foul.

13. "Safety" Shot. For tactical reasons a player may choose to pocket an obvious object ball and also discontinue his turn at the table by declaring "safety" in advance. A safety shot is defined as a legal shot. If the shooting player intends to play safe by pocketing an obvious object ball, then prior to the shot, they must declare a "safety" to his opponent. If this is **NOT** done, and one of the shooter's object balls is pocketed, the shooter will be required to shoot again. Any ball pocketed on a safety shot remains pocketed.

14. Scoring. A player is entitled to continue shooting until they fail to legally pocket a ball of their group. After a player has legally pocketed all of his group of balls, they shoot to pocket the 8-ball.

15. Foul Penalty. Opposing player gets the cue ball in hand. This means that the player can place the cue ball anywhere on the table and 1 shot can be taken. The first shot on the table is "Free Table" which means any ball can be hit and no foul is awarded for potting the opposing player's ball.

16. Combination Shots. Combination shots are allowed; however, the 8-ball cannot be used as a first ball in the combination except when the table is open.

17. Illegally Pocketed Balls. An object ball is considered to be illegally pocketed when (1) that object ball is pocketed on the same shot a foul is committed, or (2) (On the 8 Ball) the called ball did not go in the designated pocket, or (3) a safety is called prior to the shot. Illegally pocketed balls remain pocketed.

18. Object Balls jumped off the Table. If any object ball is jumped off the table, it is a foul and loss of turn, unless it is the 8-ball, which is a loss of game. Any jumped object balls are spotted in numerical order according to General Rules for spotting balls.

19. Playing the 8-Ball. When shooting at the 8-ball, a foul is not loss of game if the 8-ball is not pocketed or jumped from the table. Incoming player has cue ball in hand. **Note:** A combination shot can never be used to legally pocket the 8-ball.

20. Loss of the Game. A player loses the game if they commit any of the following infractions:
a. Fouls when pocketing the 8-ball (exception: see 8-Ball Pocketed On The Break).
b. Pockets the 8-ball on the same stroke as the last of his group of balls.
c. Jumps the 8-ball off the table at any time.
d. Pockets the 8-ball in a pocket other than the one designated.
e. Pockets the 8-ball when it is not the legal object ball.
Note: All infractions must be called before another shot is taken, or else it will be deemed that no infraction occurred.