

## **8 BALL POOL**

(INDIVIDUAL or PARTNER EVENT) OPEN

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Participants do not have to qualify through regional play-offs. Entries must be sent directly to AAIM. Entry forms may be obtained from the games office or website.

### **EVENT CLASSIFICATION**

- MEN'S & WOMEN'S: 55+ & 70+ or a combination of age categories may be used for mixed play.

**MINIMUM # OF ENTRIES RECOMMENDED:** 8 Individuals.

### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

1. 8-Ball is a call shot game played with a cue ball and 15 object balls numbered 1 - 15.
2. One player must pocket balls of the group numbered 1 through 7 (solid colors), while the other player has 9 through 15 (stripes).
3. The player pocketing either group first, and then legally pocketing the 8-ball wins the game.

### **RULES & REGULATIONS**

The Billiards Congress of America standardized rules will be used.

#### **1. Order of Break**

- a) Winner of the coin toss has the option to break.
- b) The winner of each game breaks the next.
- c) The following are common options that may be designated by tournament officials advance:
  1. Players alternate break
  2. Loser breaks

#### **2. 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 foot spot, a stripe ball in one corner of the rack and a solid ball in the other corner.

#### **3. Call Shot**

- a) In a Call Shot, obvious balls and pockets do not have to be indicated.

- b) It is the opponent's right to ask which ball and pocket if he is unsure of the shot.
- c) Bank shots and combination shots are not considered obvious, and care should be taken when calling both the object ball and the intended pocket.
- d) When calling the shot, it is never necessary to indicate details such as the number of cushions, banks, kisses, caroms, etc.
- e) Any balls pocketed on a foul remain pocketed, regardless of whether they belong to the shooter or the opponent.
- f) The opening break is not a "called shot".
- g) Any player performing a break shot in 8-Ball may continue to shoot so long as any object ball is legally pocketed on the break.

#### 4. Legal Break Shot:

Defined: To execute a legal break, the breaker (with cue ball behind the head string ) must either 1. Pocket the ball, or 2. Drive at least four numbered balls to the rail.

When the breaker fails to make a legal break, it is a foul, and the incoming player has the option of

- a) Accepting the table in position and shooting, or
- b) Having the balls re-racked and having the option of shooting the opening break or allowing the offending player to re-break.

#### 5. Scratch on a Legal Break:

- a) The balls pocketed remain pocketed (Exception, the 8-ball. See rule #7)
- b) It is a foul,
- c) The table is open.

**Note:** The incoming player has cue ball in hand behind the head string and may not shoot an object ball that is behind the head string, unless he first shoots the cue ball past the head string and causes the cue ball to come back behind the head string and hit the object ball

#### 6. Object Balls Jumped Off The Table On The Break: it is a foul and the incoming player has the option of:

- a) Accepting the table position and shooting,
- b) Taking cue ball in hand behind the head string and shooting.

#### 7. If the 8-ball is pocketed on the break,

- a) A breaker may ask for a re-rack or have the 8-ball spotted and continue

shooting.

- b) If the breaker scratches 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 head string.

## 8. Open Table

- a) Defined: The table is “open” when the choice of groups (stripes or solids) has not yet been determined.
- b) When the table is open, it is legal to hit a solid first to make a stripe or vice-versa
- c) Note: The table is always open immediately after the break shot.
- d) When the table is open, it is legal to hit any solid or stripe first in the process of pocketing the called stripe or solid.
- e) However, when the table is open and the 8-Ball is the first ball contacted, it is a foul and no stripe or solid may be scored in favour of the shooter.
- f) The shooter loses his turn, the incoming player is awarded cue ball in hand; any balls pocketed remain pocketed: and the remaining player addresses the balls with the tables still open.
- g) On an open table, all illegally pocketed balls remain pocketed.

## 9. 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, because the table is always open immediately after the break shot.

The choice of group is determined only when a player legally pockets a called object ball after the break shot.

## 10. Legal Shot

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

## 11. "Safety" Shot

- a) For tactical reasons, a player may choose to pocket an obvious object ball and also discontinue a turn at the table by declaring "safety" in advance.
- b) A safety shot is defined as a legal shot.
- c) If the shooting player intends to play a safe by pocketing an obvious object ball, then prior to the shot, the shooter must declare a "safety" to the opponent.
- d) It is the shooter's responsibility to make the opponent aware of the intended safety shot.
- e) If this is not done, and one of the shooter's object balls is pocketed, the shooter will be required to shoot again.
- f) Any ball pocketed on a safety shot remains pocketed.

## 12. Scoring

- a) A player is entitled to continue shooting until failing to legally pocket a ball of this group.
- b) After a player has legally pocketed all of his group of balls, he shoots to pocket the 8-Ball.

## 13. Foul Penalty

- a) Opposing player gets cue ball in hand.
- b) This means that the player can place the cue ball anywhere on the table (does not have to be behind the head string except on opening breaks)
- c) This rule prevents a player from making intentional fouls which would put an opponent at a disadvantage.
- d) With "cue ball in hand", the player may use a hand or any part of a cue (including the tip) to position the cue ball.
- e) When placing the cue ball in position, any forward stroke motion contacting the cue ball will be a foul, if not a legal shot.

## 14. Combination Shots

Combination shots are allowed, however, the 8-Ball can't be used as a first ball in the combination unless it is the shooter's only remaining legal object ball on the table. Otherwise, should such contact occur on the 8-Ball, it is a foul.

## 15. Illegally Pocketed Balls:

An object ball is considered to be illegally pocketed when:

- a) that object ball is pocketed on the same shot a foul is committed, or
- b) the called ball did not go in the designated pocket, or
- c) a safety is called prior to the shot.

Illegally pocketed balls remain pocketed and are scored in favor of the shooter controlling that specific group of balls, solids or stripes.

#### 16. Object Balls Jumped Off The Table

- a) If any object ball is jumped off the table, it is a foul and a loss of turn, unless it is the 8-Ball which means loss of game.
- b) Any jumped object balls are not re-spotted.

#### 17. Jump and Masse' Shot Foul

While "cue ball fouls only" is the rule of play when a match is not presided over by a referee, a player should be aware that it will be considered a cue ball foul if during an attempt to jump, curve or masse' the cue ball over or around an impeding numbered ball that is not a legal object ball, the impeding ball moves (regardless of whether it was moved by a hand, cue stick follow-through or bridge).

#### 18. Playing the 8-Ball

When the 8-Ball is the legal object ball, a scratch or 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, except when the 8-Ball is the first ball contacted in the shot sequence.

#### 19. Loss of Game

A player loses the game by committing any of the following infractions:

- a) Fouls when pocketing the 8-Ball  
(Exception: see 8-Ball Pocketed on the Break – rule #7).
- 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.

#### 20. Stalemated Game

If, after 3 consecutive turns at the table by each player (6 turns in total), the

referee judges that attempting to pocket or move an object ball will result in loss of game, the balls will be re-racked with the original breaker of the stalemated game breaking again. The stalemate rule may be applied regardless of the number of balls on the table.

**Note:** Three consecutive fouls by one player in 8-Ball is not a loss of game.

## TOURNAMENT DRAW

A round robin format will be used. Each match will consist of the best three games (Race to 2). If there are too few competitors, the event chair, may require that each match consist of best of five games (Race to 3).

## TIE BREAKING SYSTEM

1. DIVISION STANDINGS: If a two-way tie exists at the end of the round robin, a best of three playoff is to be played. If a three-way tie exists at the end of round-robin play, players will toss coins until one person has the “odd” coin and receives a “bye” in the playoff. The other two players play a best of three playoff, with the winner of this game going on to play a best of three playoff against the player who received the “bye”. The winner of this playoff is the overall winner.

**OFFICIALS** - There will be a head judge identified at the start of the tournament. The head judge’s word is final.

## EQUIPMENT

Table Size: 4' X 8'

Pool ball: Pocket billiards balls. Weight = 5.5 to 7 oz. Diameter = 2.25"

Pool cue: Player may bring a maximum of 3 cue sticks to a match.

Width of tip = 9mm – 14mm. Minimum length of cue = 40 inches.

Cue tip may not scratch or damage the addressed ball (must be composed of specially processed leather, fibrous or pliable material)

## AWARDS

First, second, and third place will be awarded in each category. Awards will be presented immediately following the event or at a central location at a predetermined time.