

Northampton Senior Center

Billiards League Rules

8 Ball and 1-15 rules shall be exactly the same except that in 1-15 the 1 or 15 ball must be pocketed in the proper side pocket before the 8 ball. If the 1 or 15 ball is pocketed by either player in a wrong pocket it will be returned to the table and spotted but the player pocketing the ball will continue to shoot provided it was his/her proper ball. 9 Ball push shots are not allowed.

In both 8ball and 1-15 games only the 8 ball must be called. A scratch or foul on the 8 ball loses the game. The 8 ball cannot be used in combinations. An 8 ball made on the break wins the game. In 9ball balls must be struck in rotation. After any legal hit any ball can go lucky.

ALL SCRATCHES or FOULS result in ball in hand and loss of turn except that a scratch on the 8 ball or an improperly pocketed 8 ball results in loss of game. All other balls made on a scratch stay down except that in 9 ball the 9 ball shall be spotted.

1) **The Lag** the first shot of the match determining the opening break shot is to be taken behind the headstring line. In subsequent games, the winner of the previous game wins the break and the loser must rack. The lagged balls are struck simultaneously and must contact the foot cushion. The ball that lands closest to the bottom rail wins the lag. Loss of lag: ball goes off table or in a pocket.

2) **The Rack** All balls shall be racked tightly touching one another (frozen) in the standard geometric patterns, the breaker gets to inspect them. (Ball rack template) In both 8ball games the 8 ball shall be the first ball that is directly below the apex ball. One from each group of seven will be on the two lower corners of the triangle. In 9ball the 1ball at the apex of the diamond on the spot and the 9 ball in the middle of the diamond. All other balls are placed in the triangle without purposeful or intentional pattern for both games. If the 8 ball (in 8ball or 1-15) or 9 ball (in 9ball) is made on the break the breaker wins the game.

3) **Standard Scratches**

Wrong Ball First: The first ball contacted by the cue ball on a shot must belong to the shooter's group, except when the table is open.

No Rail after Contact: player must cause the cue ball to contact a legal object ball then pocket a numbered ball, or cause the cue ball or any numbered ball to contact a cushion or any part of the rail after that contact.

Ball driven off the Table, Cue stick on table, No foot on floor - Self explanatory

4) **Scratch Exception** Unintentionally moved balls shall be replaced as near as possible to their original positions immediately prior to the incident, and play shall resume with no penalty.

5) **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Penalty is loss of match for any of the following situations:

- Loud and abusive language or behavior
- Providing disinformation about the rules
- Kibitzing or interference in another match