

# 2011 - 2012 Manatee Valley Pool League (Rules)

## Frequently Asked Rules

Here are some rules for quick reference that come up a lot. This is not a complete rules listing and familiarization of VNEA Rule Book is required.

### 1) Racking-

- a) A stripe and a solid must be on the corners of the rack.

### 2) Break-

- a) Four (4) number balls must be driven to the cushion or one or more balls must be pocked for a legal break. If a player fails to make a legal break it is not a foul; however,
  - 1) the opponent has the option (1) accepting the table in position and shooting, or (2) have the balls reracked and shooting the break himself or have original breaker rebreak.
- b) Stopping or deflecting the cue ball prior to hitting the racked balls are considered fouls and loss of turn. The opponent will receive cue ball in hand behind the headstring.
- c) Incoming player with cue ball in hand behind the headstring and may not shoot an object ball whose base is not outside the headstring, unless he/she first shoots the cue ball past the headstring and causes the cue ball to come back behind the headstring and hit the object ball. Scratch on the break is behind the headstring.
- d) Eight on the Break- The breaker may ask for a rerack or have the 8-ball spotted and continue shooting. Should the breaker pocket the 8-ball and scratch, the incoming player has the option of spotting the 8-ball and shooting from behind the headstring or reracking and assuming the break. A game cannot be won or lost with an 8-ball on the break, regardless of what is pocketed on the same shot.
- e) 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 headstring and shooting. Any jumped balls are spotted in numerical order.

### 3) Open Table-

- a) 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. 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. On an open table, all pocketed balls remain pocketed. The choice of stripes or solids is not determined on the break even if balls are made from only one or both groups.

### 4) Game-

- a) In Call Pocket, obvious balls and pockets do not have to be indicated. It is opponent's right to ask which ball and pocket if he is unsure of the shot. Banks and combinations are not considered obvious and both the object ball and the pocket must be called or it is a loss of turn.

## 5) Play-

- a) If a player fails to hit the 8-ball while shooting at it, it is a foul and the game continues. When the 8-ball is the legal object ball, a scratch or foul is not a loss of game if the 8-ball is not pocketed or jumped off the table. Incoming player has cue ball in hand.
- b) 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.
- c) STALEMATED GAME: If in 3 consecutive turns at the table by each player (6 turns total), they purposely foul or scratch and both players agree that attempting to pocket or move an object ball will result in immediate loss of game, then the game will be considered a stalemate. The balls will then be re-racked and the breaker of the stalemated game will break again.

## 6) Loss of Game-

- a) All infractions must be called before the next shot is taken. Only the players involved may call an infraction.

## 7) Fouling-

- a) Object Ball Frozen To Cushion Or Cue Ball.

This applies to any shot where the cue ball's first contact with a ball is with one that is frozen to a cushion or to the cue ball itself. After the cue ball makes contact with the frozen ball, the shot must result in either:

- 1) A ball being pocketed, or;
- 2) The cue ball contacting a cushion, or;
- 3) The frozen ball being caused to contact a cushion attached to a separate rail, or;
- 4) Another object ball being caused to contact a cushion with which it was not already in contact.

### **Failure to satisfy one of those four requirements is a foul.**

A ball which is touching a cushion at the start of a shot and then is forced into a cushion attached to the same rail is not considered to have been driven to that cushion unless it leaves the cushion, contacts another ball, and then contacts the cushion again. An object ball is not considered frozen to a cushion unless it is examined and announced as such by either the referee or one of the players prior to that object ball being involved in a shot.

- b) ACCIDENTALLY moving or touching any ball is not a foul unless: 1) the moved ball is the cue ball or 2) a moved ball makes contact with the cue ball or 3) a moved ball that is jumped off the table or pocketed or causes any ball to be jumped off the table or pocketed. Only opponent may replace the ball moved as closely as possible or leave it where it rests. If the shooter replaces the moved ball, it will be considered a foul.
- c) Picking up or shooting the cue ball while any balls are still in motion is a foul.
- d) With cue ball in hand, touching any object ball with the cue ball is a foul or touching any object ball with your hand while touching the cue ball is a foul.
- e) Jumping object balls off the table.
- f) After a scratch on a legal break, if a player positions the cue ball completely and obviously outside the kitchen and shoots it is a foul.