

OFFICIAL RULES OF THE BCA POOL LEAGUE

RULES SECTION 10

APPLIED RULINGS

While great care has been taken to ensure that the BCAPL Rules are written as clearly and thoroughly as possible, situations will occasionally arise that do not perfectly fit within the framework of the rules. The human factor will also always be present, resulting in different people reaching different conclusions while reading the same language. The following material serves to describe the application of the rules to various situations. It is designed to illustrate and demonstrate the usage of the rules, and in some cases give what could be referred to as interpretations. The Applied Rulings are specifically intended to cover situations that might be open to question or differing opinions.

The Applied Rulings are presented in three formats. The first two, the brief descriptive note and the "situation-and-effect" style, are self-explanatory. The third is the "General Discussion". These are used for more in-depth rulings, and may be used in order to clarify the BCAPL's intent or reasoning behind the development of those rules. In some cases, there is even advice to players to help you avoid disputes. Notes and General Discussions and are not necessarily associated with the Situations that follow them. If a Situation requires further comment, a specific Discussion will follow the Situation.

The BCAPL recognizes that no set of rules will ever be perfect. Some issues might have been missed, or some rules or rulings may change over time for various reasons. The Official Rules and Applied Rulings will be reviewed continually, and adjustments will be made as necessary. New editions will be printed annually with any changes included. If an issue should be considered important enough to require immediate attention, changes will be made and issued via the BCAPL web site and by mail.

The Applied Rulings have been developed by the BCAPL National Office. They are to be taken as definitive, have the same effect as the rules, and are binding on players, referees and event officials during BCAPL events. Their application is specific to BCAPL play and is not intended to debate other interpretations, applications or practices outside of BCAPL play.

Text appearing in ***bold and italics*** highlights Applied Rulings that are either new or that have significant changes.

APPLIED RULINGS: DEFINITIONS AND DIAGRAMS

Bank Shot; Carom Shot; Combination Shot; Kick Shot; Kiss Shot

Although the definitions for these shots refer to the "called ball", naturally these types of shots exist in games that are not call shot games. The references to the called ball in these definitions is specifically to support and emphasize the restrictions placed on these types of shots under Rule 1.17, Calling Ball and Pocket.

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Carom Shot; Kiss Shot

(also see AR “Bank Shot”)

The terms “carom” and “kiss” are sometimes used interchangeably, or described or interpreted differently by various persons or authorities. The point of this ruling is specifically *not* to debate the distinctions that may be commonly argued between the terms and their application to other situations such as defining procedures for calling shots. The terms are addressed in the definitions sufficiently and clearly enough to impart their intent within the framework of these rules.

Combination Shot; Safety;

1.17 Calling Ball and Pocket

(also see AR “Bank Shot”)

General Discussion: On a combination shot, the called ball might not be the last ball in the series of balls struck or the first ball to be pocketed in the called pocket. In figure 10-1, the player may call the 12-ball in the corner pocket, intending to pocket it after the solid ball is pocketed first. It is still a combination shot as defined in these rules.

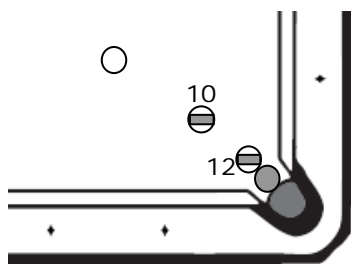


Figure 10-1

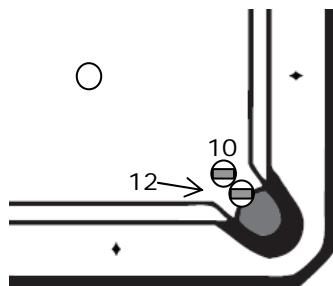


Figure 10-2

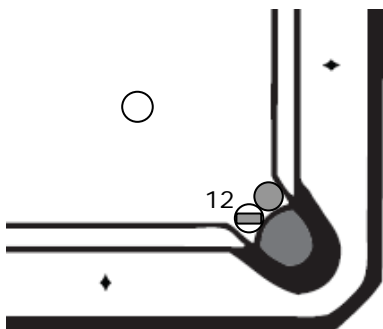


Figure 10-3

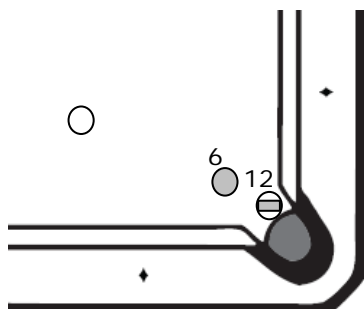


Figure 10-4

Figure 10-2 depicts a combination shot. This figure is included specifically to emphasize

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the provision of Rule 1.17.3 that no matter how obvious a shot may appear, if it is a combination shot it *must* be called. If the shooter pockets the 12-ball in Figure 10-2 and does not call the shot, the inning is ended.

However, in Figure 10-3, if the shooter in an 8-Ball game, having stripes as their established group, addresses the 12-ball, the shot would be considered obvious, and any contact of the 12-ball with the solid ball would be an incidental kiss. Even if the solid ball falls in before, after, or at about the same time as the stripe, it will not be considered a combination shot.

The number of balls left on the table or their position on the table is irrelevant to the requirement to call all combinations. In figure 10-2, it would not matter if the 10-ball and 12-ball were the last two stripes on the table. The requirement to call the 12-ball is still in effect.

In practice, you may protect yourself against any possible detrimental effect of Rule 1.17 by calling all shots that may have even a remote appearance of a combination, and communicating your intentions clearly to your opponent. If a shot is disputed after the fact, the referee's judgment will be final concerning whether the shot was a combination.

Figure 10-4 applies to Situation 1.

1. Situation: Player A has solids. Player A, without calling the shot, shoots the 6-ball into the 12, pocketing the 6-ball after the 12-ball.

Ruling: Player A's inning ends. Player B accepts the table in position.

Discussion: This type of shot is included in the definition of "Combination", and therefore must be called.

This is not an obvious shot. The action between the 6-ball and 12-ball is not an incidental kiss under Rule 1.17.1. When a ball is blocking the mouth of a pocket such that another ball cannot enter that pocket without the possibility of pocketing the blocking ball first: if a player intends to pocket a ball *other than the blocking ball* in that pocket then the shot is not obvious, and must be called. Note that this is not the same type of shot as in Figure 10-3, where there is a clear possibility of pocketing the called ball without pocketing the other ball.

In addition, Player A could have intended to continue shooting or may have been attempting a safety. Without the requirement to call the shot, Player A could claim either result after the shot depending on whether the position after the shot favored Player A or Player B. With two different outcomes possible under the rules from the same shot, Player A must declare their intentions before the shot.

Illegal Break

Depending on specific game rules, it is possible to have an illegal break without a foul, or an illegal break and a separate foul on the same shot.

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Illegally Pocketed Ball

Be careful not confuse the relation of the term "illegally pocketed" to the act of committing a foul. By definition, a ball pocketed on a foul is illegally pocketed. However, whether the act of illegally pocketing a ball, in and of itself, causes a foul is dependent on specific game rules.

Kick Shot

See AR "Bank Shot"

Kiss Shot

See AR "Bank Shot"

Legal Break

The requirements for a legal break generally apply only to the action of the balls on the table. Depending on specific game rules, it is possible to have a legal break and a separate foul on the same shot.

Obvious Shot

See Applied Ruling "Safety", and Applied Ruling 1.17, Calling Ball and Pocket.

Pocketed Ball

1. Situation: An object ball comes to rest simultaneously touching a ball that is already in a pocket and the bed of the table.

Ruling: The ball is not pocketed. It must be placed on the bed of the table as closely as possible to the drop point where it was resting, but without falling into the pocket.

2. Situation: An object ball rebounds from a pocket because of a ball, piece of equipment, or other obstruction in the pocket.

Ruling: The ball is not pocketed. While a referee, if available, may assist in clearing pockets, the player is ultimately responsible for ensuring that pockets are clear.

3. Situation: *A ball drops into a pocket and, without rebounding from the pocket, then falls to the floor because of a flaw in the pocket or ball-return system.*

Ruling: *The ball is pocketed.*

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Push Shot

When the cue ball is frozen to another ball or a cushion, and a player legally shoots toward the frozen ball or cushion under Rule 1.20.2-3, it is not to be considered a push shot even though the cue tip may contact the cue ball for a slightly longer time than a normal shot.

Safety (also "Obvious Shot")

General Discussion: The definition of "safety", and safety play in general, is affected by issues similar to the ones discussed above with combinations. The most common issue is the possible conflict between the "undeclared" safety that results in a pocketed ball and whether or not the shot was obvious. By "undeclared" safety, we mean a shot in which the player does not intend to pocket a ball yet does not declare a safety, which many players frequently do when playing what they perceive as simple defensive shots.

There are no diagrams for this discussion because there are countless possibilities. The common problem occurs when a player, successfully attempting to play defensively and leaving the cue ball in a difficult position, also *unintentionally* pockets a legal object ball on the same shot. The player had no idea the ball was going to be pocketed, and so did not declare a safety. Neither player wants to shoot from the resulting difficult position of the cue ball, so a dispute ensues about whether or not the pocketed ball could have been considered obvious.

In considering the effect of the rule, it was decided that the player who unintentionally pocketed the ball should not be required to shoot again under every circumstance. In many situations like this, the unintentionally pocketed ball is the result of a shot that is defined as not obvious. Such shots do not apply to this problem because they *must* be called. However, it is possible that situations may arise in which the pocketed ball is the result of so unlikely a shot that the shooter should not necessarily be penalized, and that the decision should be left to the referee. In those instances, the referee will gather the information necessary and make a judgment concerning whether or not the shot was obvious.

In this situation, the shooter's opponent may not necessarily use the provision of Rule 1.17.2 to argue that a shot was obvious under the framework of the safety rules simply because they did not question the shot before it occurred. That is not within the intent of the rule.

As with combinations, there is a simple way you can protect yourself from any possible detrimental effects of the safety rules: *always call a safety if you do not want to shoot again, and communicate your intentions clearly to your opponent.* While that is not required by the rules if you are not attempting to pocket a ball, and while it is true that many simple defensive shots are not actually "safety" shots as defined by the rules, *there is no prohibition against declaring a safety even if you do not intend to pocket a ball.* Then, if you do accidentally pocket a ball, there will be no dispute. Otherwise, it will be a judgment call by the referee.

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Situation 1: Player A calls a ball and pocket, and at the same time calls a safety. Player A completes the shot as intended, pocketing the called ball.

Ruling: Player A's inning is ended. The safety takes precedence over the called shot, and is enforced according to the General Rules and specific game rules.

APPLIED RULINGS: GENERAL RULES

1.1 Player Responsibility

See Applied Ruling 1.45, Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1.2 Acceptance of Provided Equipment

Play may not be stopped or delayed unless conditions are severe. Particularly in tournament play, or when time is limited, a match may be required to begin or continue on equipment such as a dirty or unlevel table. The final decision whether to start or continue play is solely at the judgment of the referee or Administrative Authority. If play continues, the Administrative Authority should make their best effort to correct the problem as soon as possible.

1. Situation: Player A, preparing to shoot a ball along the cushions and across the mouth of a side pocket, either pushes on the tip of the cushion or manipulates the cloth at the tip of the cushion at the side pocket.

Ruling: Foul, regardless of whether or not Player A attempts a shot.

1.3 Use of Equipment

Rule 1.3.1(c): Instances have been documented in which chalk that appears to be of a compatible color actually appears as a contrasting color when it comes off on the cloth. Chalk proven to cause this problem may be prohibited despite the initial appearance of compatibility.

Rule 1.3.1(e): If two bridges are used, the upper bridge must rest on the head of the lower bridge.

1. Situation: Player A lays their cue on the table to help line up a shot, then takes a second cue in hand to assist as well.

Ruling: Foul. Only a single cue, held in the hand or not, may be used.

2. Situation: Player A, attempting to gain additional reach, partially unscrews their jointed cue in order to lengthen it.

Ruling: Foul. The equipment is not being used in the manner in which it was intended.

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3. Situation: Player A shoots and a ball leaves the bed of the table, strikes a piece of Player B's personal chalk that they left on the rail, and falls back on the bed of the table.

Ruling: Foul.

Discussion: Personal chalk left on a rail is an exception to the responsibility principle of Rule 1.3.1. Personal chalk is considered a hazard for the shooter regardless of ownership.

4. Situation: Player A, preparing to shoot a jump shot, unscrews the extended butt from their jump-break cue and places it in a pocket. They then forget that the butt is in the pocket and leave it there after their inning. Player B shoots and a ball (a) rebounds from the pocket; (b) is pocketed despite the presence of the butt.

Ruling: (a) foul on Player A; (b) The result of the shot stands and the game continues.

Discussion: With the exception of chalk left on the rail, if equipment used by a player and left at the table directly interferes with their opponent's shot, it is a foul on the player that left the equipment. If a player leaves equipment at the table and it is discovered before it interferes with the game, or if it interacts with the balls during a shot without causing a disadvantage to the opponent, it shall be removed without penalty, but a warning may be issued.

5. Situation: Player A, with ball in hand, places the cue ball very close to two object balls that are near each other, one legal and one illegal. Player A then picks up the cue ball and re-places it in a different position before shooting toward the same object balls. Player B calls a foul for measuring.

Ruling: Whether Player A attempted a measurement is determined by the referee's judgment.

6. Situation: Player A uses markings, inlays or rings on their cue, their finger, or a piece of chalk to measure a gap between two balls or between a ball and a cushion.

Ruling: Foul. Violation of Rule 1.3(g).

7. Situation: *Player A aligns a bank shot or kick shot by using their cue or hands to judge the distance between a ball and pocket, ball and cushion, or between balls.*

Ruling: *Legal under 1.3(a). The prohibition on measuring under Rule 1.3(g) applies specifically to determining the width of a gap for the passage of a ball or to determine which of multiple object balls another ball would strike first. However, the only device that may be used (in addition to your hands) is a single cue (Situation 1 applies).*

8. Situation: *Player A places a mark on their ferrule in order to keep the cue aligned a certain way for every shot.*

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Ruling: Legal.

1.4 Cue Requirements;

1.11 Time-Out

1. Situation: After a match begins, a player wishes to borrow or purchase a cue or other equipment for use in their match.

Ruling: A match may not be delayed to borrow or buy equipment. A player may borrow equipment from someone in the immediate vicinity of the table, but may purchase equipment only during an authorized time-out.

2. Situation: Player B questions the legality of Player A's cue and summons a referee (a) before Player A has used the cue to execute a shot; (b) after Player A has used the cue to execute a shot. In both cases (a) and (b), the referee determines that the cue is illegal.

Ruling: (a) No foul, but the cue must be removed from play; (b) Foul.

1.5 Starting Time of Match;

1.11 Time-Out

"Present at the table" means in the immediate vicinity of the actual table to which the match is assigned. While that may be taken to include the area immediately outside the rails, tables or other barriers defining the players' area, not much leeway will be granted. For instance: just entering the doors of the room that are a considerable distance away and then hurrying to get to the assigned table does not constitute presence at the table.

If there is confusion over an administrative issue or if a player has been summoned by a Tournament Director or their representative, the presence of the player at the tournament desk may be sufficient. All cases involving presence at the table are decided at the sole discretion of the referee or Tournament Director.

1.7 Beginning of Game or Match;

1.38 Ball in Hand Placement

1. Situation: *Player A, preparing to break with the cue ball resting in the kitchen, adjusts the position of the cue ball with a motion of the cue that meets the definition of "legal stroke".*

Ruling: Foul.

Discussion: Placement of the cue ball in preparation for a break shot is no different from placement any other time that you have ball in hand. Rule 1.38.1 applies. (For 8-Ball, also see Applied Ruling 2.3 Situation 1.)

1.8 No Practice Allowed During Match

1. Situation: During a match, Player A approaches an unused table on which there are

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some object balls and a cue ball. Player A then (a) assumes a normal stance and bridge and shoots the cue ball directly into a pocket; (b) without assuming a normal stance or forming a bridge, uses a forward stroke motion to tap an object ball, contacting the ball with the tip of the cue and rolling it a few inches.

Ruling: (a) and (b): Foul.

Discussion: Any forward stroke motion that includes the tip contacting any ball will be considered a shot, regardless of whether or not a shooting stance or bridge is used, or whether or not the ball contacted is a cue ball or an object ball. Simply put, if the act would be considered a stroke or shot during the course of a game, it will be considered a practice stroke or shot as well.

2. Situation: Between games of a match, and on the same table as the match is being played on, it is Player A's turn to break. Player A uses a cue to push balls left over from the previous game down to the foot of the table, contacting the balls with the cue tip in a forward stroke motion.

Ruling: Legal, provided there is no indication that Player A is attempting to practice or gain knowledge about the table with the strokes. While not encouraged, moving balls to the opposite end of the table for racking is considered an exception to Rule 1.8.

Team play: In team play, the timing of a foul issued because of practice by a player not actually playing a game at the time of the offense is dependent on the arrival of the referee at the tables involved in the match. If the referee verifies that practice has occurred, they shall proceed to the tables the match is being played on and suspend play on all tables immediately regardless of the progress of any game. The penalties for the foul shall then immediately be applied to all tables. If a table is between games when play is suspended, no penalty will be applied to that table.

1.9 Stopping Play;

1.10 Suspended Play

1.17 Calling Ball and Pocket

1.42 Non-Shooting Player Requirement

General Discussion: When requesting that a player at the table stop what they are doing, as well as when requesting information concerning what shot is being played, requests should be made as soon as possible. While Rules 1.9.1 and 1.17.2 specify that questions must be asked prior to a player being down on a shot, situations may arise in which it is not apparent what the shooter intends to do before being down on the shot. With respect to Rules 1.9.1, 1.17.2 and 1.42, "down on the shot" means having settled completely into a shooting position with a bridge established and pre-shot practice strokes imminent or in progress. While the player's shooting style will be considered, simply leaning over the table and placing the bridge hand on the bed does not necessarily constitute being down a shot.

In no case may a shooter attempt to get down on a shot quickly in an attempt to prevent

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an opponent from asking a question or stopping play. If a shooter has just leaned over the table to assume a shooting position but has not yet firmly established the position and started or prepared to start practice strokes, it may still be permissible to stop play. At the same time, to help prevent that situation from occurring, when in the chair it is your responsibility to remain alert and make every effort to anticipate situations in which you may want to stop play or request information.

If you wish to stop play in order to summon a referee, you must clearly let your opponent know and ensure that your opponent acknowledges your request. If, during your opponent's turn, you leave the table or area to summon a referee without first stopping play, your opponent may continue to shoot without penalty.

Thorough and clear communication is required of all players. If a dispute arises, or if players have persistent problems regarding this issue during a match, the referee will be the sole judge of what remedies or penalties shall be imposed, and both players may be subject to unsportsmanlike conduct warnings or penalties.

Violations involving shooting while play is stopped or suspended do not require that the stroke or shot take place on the table on which the suspension is in effect. A stroke or shot on any table at the event venue is illegal under Rules 1.9 and 1.10.

During extended stoppages or suspensions caused by unusual circumstances, referees or event officials may temporarily suspend Rule 1.8.

1. Situation: Player A is completely down on the shot with a bridge established. As Player A is preparing to shoot, Player B requests a stoppage. Player A attempts to halt their shot, but contacts the cue ball. The resulting action of the balls would normally constitute a foul.

Ruling: Foul on Player B. Player A accepts the object balls in position.

Discussion: This situation is an exception to the principle that a foul by one player can override an earlier foul in the same inning (see Applied Ruling 1.24 Situation 1). The result of Player A's action was directly caused by Player B's untimely interruption, and the shot that would have been a foul does not override the foul by Player B.

2. Situation: *Player A calls a shot and Player B requests that play be stopped so a referee may be called. While waiting for a referee, Player A decides to play a different shot, and shoots without the permission of Player B.*

Ruling: *Foul on Player A. Even if the shot is changed, once play has stopped Player A must receive permission from either a referee or Player B to shoot.*

1.10 Suspended Play

See AR 1.9, Stopping Play

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1.11 Time-Out

See AR 1.4, Cue Requirements, and AR 1.5, Starting Time of Match.

1.13 Breaking Subsequent Games of a Match

General Discussion: It is your responsibility to know when it is your turn to break. If an incorrect player breaks a game and the error is discovered before the game is completed, the game will be re-racked with the proper player breaking. If the error is not discovered until after the game is completed then the results of the game are final.

When the procedure for breaking subsequent games of a match calls for alternating breaks, if the incorrect player breaks a game and the error is discovered after the game is completed, the original order of the break in the following games shall remain as if no error had occurred.

The winner of the lag decides who breaks the first game of the match. In subsequent games, the break must follow the procedure required by either specific game rules or event regulations. You may not voluntarily pass the break to your opponent.

1.14 Racking Procedures

To ensure play is not delayed, an undue amount of time shall not be spent attempting to put out a perfect rack if the apex ball will not stay exactly on the foot spot. If the apex ball consistently shifts slightly when attempting to rack, it is permissible to adjust the position of the remaining balls to match the position of the settled apex ball.

1.16 Shot Clock Procedures

General Discussion: The shot clock procedures for BCAPL play are designed to ensure accelerated play if the Administrative Authority deems it necessary. Referees will observe matches and provide advice to the Administrative Authority, but they will not normally place a match on a shot clock on their own unless they have judged that a player is delaying a match in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Experience clearly shows that complaints from players are most always the result of a clash of styles between a speedy player and a deliberate player, which does not justify placing a match on a shot clock. Historically, when referees observe players accused of playing slowly, it is rare for the *average* shot time of the “slow” player to exceed 45 seconds. You are not encouraged to pursue relief from a referee unless circumstances are severe.

When a player is down on the shot at the ten-second mark, the pause in the shot clock is intended to allow the player to complete their normal shooting routine without fear of having a foul announcement made as they are preparing to execute the stroke. The pause is not intended to give the player an extended amount of time to continue studying the table. If the referee judges that a player is abusing the pause in order to gain an unfair advantage with respect to studying the table or making decisions, the referee may

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announce "ten" at their discretion and the shot clock will resume as provided for in Rule 1.16.3(b).

1. Situation: The timekeeper or referee calls "Foul" just as Player A is driving the cue forward on a shot, and the player cannot stop in time to keep the shot from occurring. The cue tip does not contact the cue ball before the foul is called.

Ruling: Foul. Player B accepts the object balls in position.

1.17 Calling Ball and Pocket;

Obvious Shot

(also see AR 1.9, Stopping Play, and AR "Combination Shot")

Referee's presence: When a referee is at the table, any statement made by the shooter and heard by the referee, such as calling a shot, shall be considered sufficient notification to the player in the chair. However, any statement, question or request by the player in the chair, such as questioning an uncalled shot or requesting that play be stopped, must still be made in a timely manner regardless of the presence of a referee. If the referee hears such a request and it is made in a timely manner, they shall relay the request to the shooter. If the request is not made in a timely manner, it will not be considered valid.

Terms: When the term "call" or "calling" is used in the rules or Applied Rulings, it refers to the act of a player explicitly communicating their intentions to their opponent, either verbally or by gesture. Likewise, a reference to "not calling", "without calling" or "did not call" indicates that the player did not explicitly communicate their intentions.

Figure 10-5 applies to the following situations. Multiple shots are represented. In all cases, Player A is shooting and all object balls are legal balls.

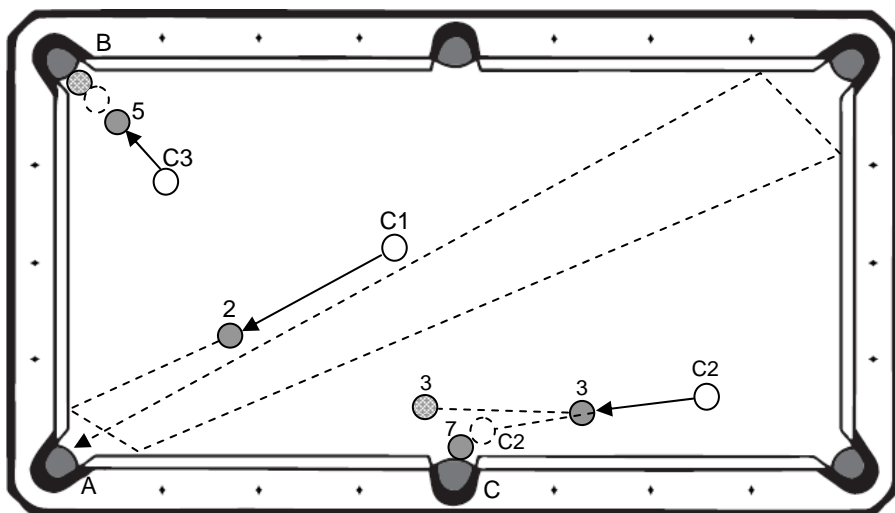


Figure 10-5

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1. Situation: Player A, with the cue ball at position C1, addresses the shot to pocket the 2-ball in pocket A. Both players consider the shot obvious and there is no doubt or disagreement by Player B. Player A misses the direct shot and the 2-ball travels four cushions around the table, returning to be pocketed in A.

Ruling: Legal. Player A's inning continues. Rule 1.17.7 applies.

2. Situation: Player A, with the cue ball at position C2, addresses the shot intending to play a combination shot and calls the 7-ball in pocket C. Player B acknowledges the call. The 3-ball misses the 7-ball entirely, but the cue ball follows behind and contacts the 7-ball, pocketing it in C.

Ruling: Legal. Player A's inning continues. The fact that the combination was not completed as intended is overridden by the fact that the called ball was made in the called pocket.

3. Situation: Player A, with the cue ball at position C3, addresses the shot to pocket the 5-ball in pocket B. Both players consider the shot obvious and there is no doubt or disagreement by Player B. The 5-ball rattles in the jaws of pocket B and stops, after which the cue ball follows behind it and pockets it into Pocket B.

Ruling: Legal. Player A's inning continues. Incidental contact under Rule 1.17.1.

Note: The rulings and principles for Situations 1 and 3 do not apply to Bank Pool, in which the specific number of rails to be contacted must be designated in advance and incidental kisses are not permitted.

4. Situation: *Player A, despite the prohibition of Rule 1.17.1, calls two balls on a shot. The result of the shot is: (a) both balls are pocketed as called; (b) the first ball contacted is pocketed but the second ball is not; (c) the first ball contacted is not pocketed but the second ball is pocketed; (d) neither ball is pocketed.*

Ruling: *(a) – (d): Player A's inning is ended. Player B accepts the table in position.*

1.19 Legal Shot

1. Situation: Player A mistakes an object ball for the cue ball and unintentionally shoots with the object ball acting as the cue ball.

Ruling: Foul. Player B accepts the object balls in position.

2. Situation: Player A shoots and the intended object ball rebounds from the pocket. Neither the cue ball nor any other ball contacts a cushion or is pocketed.

Ruling: Legal shot. For meeting the requirements of Rule 1.19.1(b), any ball that rebounds from a pocket is considered to have contacted a cushion.

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3. Situation: Player A shoots and the intended object ball comes to rest within the mouth of a pocket but without contacting a cushion. The edge of the ball is past the nose of one or both cushions (Figure 10-6). Neither the cue ball nor any other ball contacts a cushion or is pocketed.

Ruling: Foul. The edge of a ball coming to rest past the nose of a cushion does not constitute contact with the cushion.

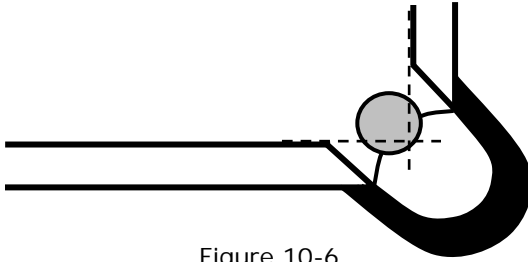


Figure 10-6

Figure 10-7 applies to Situation 4. The 3-ball near pocket A has been declared frozen to the cushion.

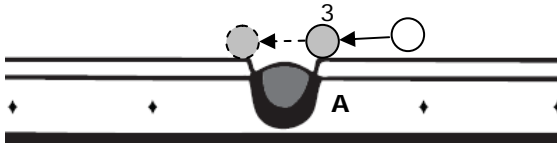


Figure 10-7

4. Situation: Player A, with the 3-ball as a legal object ball, contacts the 3-ball, driving it across the mouth of the side pocket and against the cushion on the other side. Neither the cue ball nor any other object ball contacts a cushion or is pocketed.

Ruling: Legal shot.

5. Situation: The cue ball simultaneously contacts an object ball frozen to a cushion and the cushion. There are no other balls or cushions contacted and no ball is pocketed.

Ruling: Legal shot.

6. Situation: *The cue ball contacts an object ball, then the cue ball or the object ball contacts a ball that is declared frozen to a cushion. No other cushions are contacted and no ball is pocketed.*

Ruling: Foul. *Contacting a ball frozen to a cushion does not constitute contacting the cushion.*

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1.20 Cue Ball Frozen to Object Ball or Cushion

1.30 Double Hit

General Discussion: Figure 10-8 shows an example to demonstrate the effect of Rule 1.20.4.

The cue ball is frozen to the 10-ball, with the 3-ball close by but not frozen to the cue ball. Under Rule 1.20.2, the shooter may shoot toward the 10-ball using any legal stroke and by rule the contact will be legal. However, if the angle the shooter elects to use drives the cue ball toward the 3-ball, there is a possibility that a violation of Rule 1.30 may occur with respect to the cue ball and 3-ball, creating a foul under Rule 1.30 regardless of the legality of the initial contact with the 10-ball.

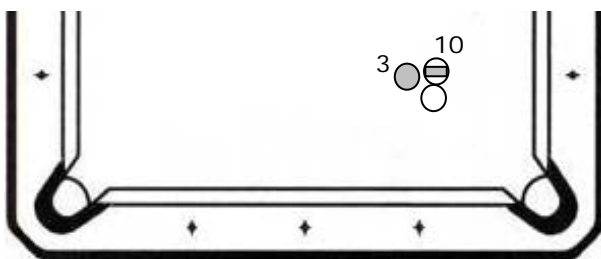


Figure 10-8

This is only one of countless possibilities. Care should be taken anytime another object ball or cushion is near the frozen cue ball, as well as near the ball or cushion to which it is frozen.

1.23 Fouls Not Called

If a foul occurs on the last shot of a game, or if scoring errors occur at the end of a game or in the game count, you must call the foul or note the error before the break shot of the next game has occurred.

If the foul or errors in question occur in the last game of a match, they must be noted before both players have left the playing area.

1.24 Multiple Fouls

1. Situation: Player A commits a foul during the shot. Player B approaches the table to take ball-in-hand and picks up the cue ball while the cue ball or any other ball on the table is still in motion.

Ruling: Foul on Player B under Rule 1.40(d).

Discussion: In general, if one or more fouls is committed by each player during

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the same *shot*, the last foul overrides the earlier fouls and is the only foul enforced. (Also see Applied Ruling 1.9 Situation 1).

1.28 Jumped Balls;

1.34 Jump and Massé Shots

When reading and applying the rules, take care not to confuse the terms "jumped ball" and "jump shot". Jumped balls are balls that leave the table in accordance with the definition as provided. On a jump shot, neither the cue ball nor the ball it jumps over are jumped balls (unless they happen to leave the table for reasons other than the normal progress of a jump shot). Interchanging the terms may cause confusion and misunderstandings, particularly when verbally reconstructing a situation for a referee.

1.30 Double Hit

1.32 Miscues

Rule 1.30.2: The term "fine angle" used in Rule 1.30.2 is often referred to in various other ways, including the common terms "thinning", "feathering", "sharp cut" or "barely grazing". However, when attempting to avoid a foul by complying with the provisions of the rule, there is not necessarily a particular angle that will guarantee a legal shot in any given circumstance. Whether a shot of this type is legal is affected by several factors, and the referee's judgment is final.

General Discussion, Rule 1.30 and 1.32: The general intent of Rule 1.30 is to regulate double hits resulting from multiple tip contacts, or continuous contact on a forward stroke caused because of the cue ball's proximity to a nearby ball or cushion. In that situation, it is also possible that a foul will occur with the second contact being with a part of the cue other than the tip. However, during such a foul the violation occurs because the second contact comes after the cue ball has contacted the nearby ball or cushion.

During a miscue, the cue ball may also be contacted more than once, with the second or subsequent contacts being with the ferrule or the shaft of the cue. Rule 1.30 is not intended to regulate unintentional miscues in which the cue contacts the cue ball more than once because of the miscue itself. Those multiple contacts are not to be construed as double hits and, as addressed by Rule 1.32, are not fouls.

An unintentional miscue may result in an extreme deflection of the cue ball from its intended path because of contact with the side of the cue. Such an unintentional deflection, in and of itself, is not a foul. However, after a miscue, any further intentional contact with the cue ball because of a sweeping or raking motion of the cue is a foul under Rule 1.40(a).

A miscue, with no associated foul as described above, has no effect on a shot under the rules. If a called ball is pocketed despite a miscue, it is simply a lucky occurrence for the shooter.

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1. Situation: *Player A, (a) while breaking, or (b) on a shot after the break, accidentally contacts the cue ball during a practice stroke, then immediately executes a shot while the cue ball is still in motion or after it has come to rest.*

Ruling: *(a) and (b): Foul under Rule 1.30, regardless of whether the second stroke was deliberate or impulsive.*

1.32 Miscues

See AR 1.30, Double Hit

1.33 Disturbed Balls (Cue Ball Fouls Only)

General Discussion: The term "cue ball fouls only" does not mean that no fouls can occur if the cue ball is not involved. The term applies only to fouls involving disturbed balls under Rule 1.33.

The term "outcome of the shot" is considered to mean only the action of the balls on the table as a result of the immediate shot, and is not related to the ending position of the table or any effect the ending position may have on the desires, strategy or intentions of the offended player.

The effect of the above statement is that, while extremely rare, it is possible that a foul may be committed under Rule 1.33 that results in the offended player being left in an undesirable position. While considering the effect of the rule, the BCAPL decided that the possibility of such an event was outweighed by the offended player (in most games) having ball in hand and the strategic advantages that are inherent with it.

If it can be determined that an offending player *deliberately* created a situation that was detrimental to the offended player by abusing the provisions of Rule 1.33, it may be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and the offended player may be awarded a remedy to counteract the undesirable position.

Whether a ball has passed through the area originally occupied by a disturbed ball is at the sole judgment of the referee.

1. Situation: Player A accidentally moves an object ball while establishing their bridge. Then, while standing up off the shot to resolve the situation, Player A again accidentally touches or moves the same object ball.

Ruling: (a) The second or subsequent accidental touches on the same object ball are considered to be a single act. Player B may elect options in accordance with Rule 1.33.3. Only the original position or final position of the disturbed ball may be elected. Intermediate positions between accidental movements may not be elected.

2. Situation: Player A accidentally disturbs an object ball and, while the disturbed ball is still in motion, intentionally touches it or picks it up to replace it.

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Ruling: Foul under Rule 1.40(d). The disturbed ball must be restored.

Figure 10-9 applies to Situations 3-5. Player A is bridging over the 3-ball while shooting at the 10-ball and disturbs the 3-ball by accidentally contacting it with the cue during the forward stroke of the shot. Multiple outcomes are represented. The inset is detailed in Figure 10-9a.

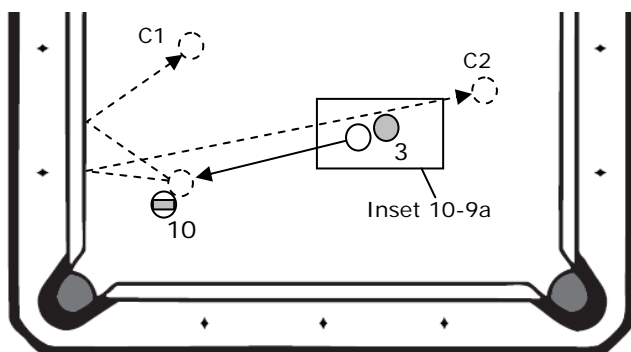


Figure 10-9

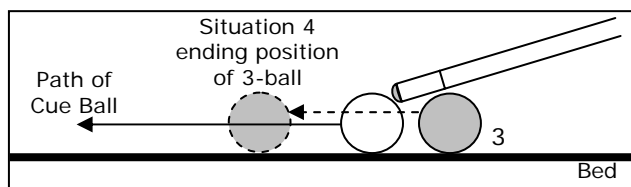


Figure 10-9a

3. Situation: The 3-ball touches the cue ball.

Ruling: Foul under Rule 1.33.7(c).

4. Situation: The 3-ball does not contact the cue ball but moves along the line of the shot and comes to rest as indicated in figure 10-9a. The cue ball moves along path C-1.

Ruling: No foul. Player B elects options in accordance with Rule 1.33.3.

Discussion: Be careful not to confuse the terms involving disturbed balls. A disturbed ball is not a ball set in motion as a result of the shot, and the previous area of a ball set in motion as a result of the shot is not relevant. In this situation the cue ball is not a disturbed ball. The fact that the 3-ball passed through the area where the cue ball originally was is irrelevant.

5. Situation: The 3-ball does not contact the cue ball but moves along the line of the shot and comes to rest as indicated in figure 10-9a. The cue ball moves along path C-2.

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Ruling: Foul. The cue ball passed through the area originally occupied by the disturbed 3-ball.

Figure 10-10 applies to Situation 6.

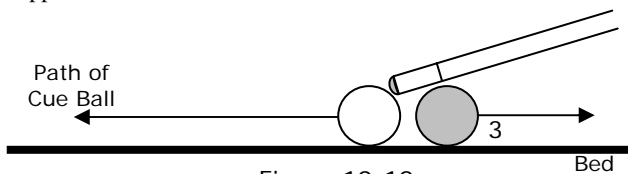


Figure 10-10

6. Situation: While Player A is shooting, during the backwards motion of the cue immediately prior to the shot the cue accidentally contacts the 3-ball and moves it away from the cue ball as indicated. The shot is then executed.

Ruling: No foul. Player B elects options in accordance with Rule 1.33.3.

Discussion: If the referee judges that the motion of the disturbed ball is intentional, it will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

7. Situation: *Player A commits a foul, after which the cue ball is still on the table. Player B approaches the table and accidentally picks up an object ball, mistaking it for the cue ball. No other ball is disturbed.*

Ruling: *No foul on Player B. The object ball is restored and Player B continues with ball in hand.*

8. Situation: *Player A is down on a shot. After disturbing a single ball, Player A stands up off the shot. Player A does not communicate with Player B concerning the disturbed ball. Player B is (a) aware of the disturbed ball, but says nothing; (b) not aware of the disturbed ball. With no action having been taken by either player concerning the disturbed ball, Player A now goes down on the shot a second time and shoots.*

Ruling: *(a) and (b): Play continues.*

Discussion: *The shooter has no obligation to notify their opponent that a ball has been disturbed. In (a), if the shooter's opponent observes a disturbed ball and does not explicitly communicate their desire to restore the ball, it constitutes a decision to leave the disturbed ball where it came to rest. In (b), it is the responsibility of the shooter's opponent to be aware of all action on the table.*

9. Situation: *Player A disturbs a ball and Player B opts to have it restored. Without the assistance of a referee, both players discuss and agree on the position of the restored ball. As Player A is preparing to shoot, either Player A or Player B decides that the restored position is not accurate, and (a) requests that the position of the*

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restored ball be changed; (b) moves the ball to a different position.

Ruling: (a) - The ball will remain in the first position agreed on by the players; (b) - foul on the player that moved the ball.

Discussion: Once players have agreed on a position for a restored ball, the decision is final.

10. Situation: Player A has disturbed the 7-ball before shooting, and Player B has made their decision regarding restoration. Player A then shoots, and a ball set in motion by the shot contacts the 7-ball.

Ruling: No effect – play continues.

Discussion: If a ball has been disturbed without a shot having been executed, once a decision has been made concerning whether to restore that ball then the position decided on is final and becomes the original position of that ball from that point forward.

1.34 Jump and Massé Shots

See AR 1.28, Jumped Balls

1.36 Shooting with Ball in Hand Behind the Head String

The only relevant information concerning this rule is the position of the object or cue ball, as defined by Rule 1.35, when it makes contact with another ball or a cushion. That position is the *base* of the ball. The edges of the ball have no relevance.

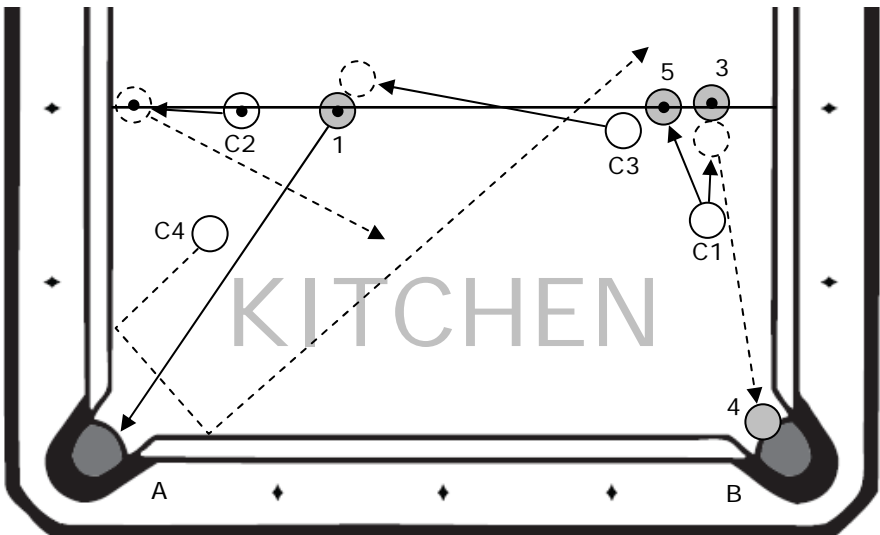


Figure 10-11

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Figure 10-11 applies to the situations that follow. Multiple cue ball positions and shots are represented. Cue ball position C2 and the 1-ball are above the head string (behind the line). The 3-ball is below the head string (out of the kitchen). The 5-ball is on the head string. In all situations, Player A has cue ball in hand behind the line and all object balls are legal object balls.

1. Situation: Player A shoots from position C1, contacting the 3-ball while the cue ball is still behind the line.

Ruling: Legal. The 3-ball is below the head string (out of the kitchen). The position of the cue ball when it strikes the 3-ball is not relevant.

2. Situation: Player A shoots from position C1, contacting the 5-ball.

Ruling: Legal. The 5-ball is on the head string, which is not part of the kitchen.

3. Situation: Player A calls the 4-ball in Pocket B, shoots from position C1, contacts the 3-ball, and then draws the cue ball back to pocket the 4-ball.

Ruling: Legal. The 4-ball was not the first ball contacted by the cue ball, and the first ball contacted was below the head string (out of the kitchen).

4. Situation: Player A calls the 4-ball in pocket B, and then shoots from position C2 with extreme spin. The cue ball contacts the side cushion at a point below the head string, and then pockets the 4-ball.

Ruling: Legal. The cue ball's contact with the first cushion was below the head string (out of the kitchen).

5. Situation: Player A calls the 1-ball in Pocket A, and then shoots from position C3, cutting the 1-ball into Pocket A. The cue ball is past the head string when it contacts the 1-ball.

Ruling: Foul. The 1-ball was behind the head string and was the first ball contacted by the cue ball. The cue ball did not contact a cushion at a point below the head string before contacting the 1-ball, nor was the cue ball's first contact with a ball below the head string. The fact that the cue ball crossed the head string before contacting the 1-ball is irrelevant.

6. Situation: Player A calls an object ball that is outside of the kitchen, then places the cue ball in position C4 and kicks at the called ball by contacting a cushion behind the head string first.

Ruling: Foul. The cue ball's contact with the first cushion was behind the line (in the kitchen).

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1.38 Ball In Hand Placement (also see AR 1.7, Beginning of Game or Match)

1. Situation: Player A, with ball in hand, drops the cue ball into a pocket *or knocks it into a pocket before executing a stroke*.

Ruling: Player A still has ball in hand.

1.40 Deliberate Foul

1. Situation: Player A plays a shot that is legal in all respects. As the cue ball is slowing at the end of the shot, Player A lightly taps the rail with his hand in a gesture of desire for the cue ball to stop rolling.

Ruling: Legal, provided the referee judges that the tapping was not hard enough to interfere with the action or position of any ball on the table.

1.41 Coaching

It is common for Administrative Authorities to modify or relax coaching rules during doubles or team play. It is also common to have controversies caused by that situation. When coaching rules have been modified, you must be sure that you understand the modifications and that you take care not to violate them.

Billiards-related written reference material may not be consulted during your match. Exceptions: Score sheets (including foul counts and any other necessary scoring information) and other match-related administrative material. The BCAPL Rule Book may also be consulted. **However, a match may not be delayed unnecessarily to consult a rule book. If you have a rules-related question, summon a referee for assistance.**

1.42 Non-Shooting Player Requirement (also see AR 1.9, Stopping Play)

The non-shooting player has certain rights with regard to inspecting the position of the table prior to their opponent being down on a shot. For example, checking whether the cue ball is frozen to an object ball, checking whether balls are frozen to a cushion, or whether a ball is in or out of the kitchen are permitted.

The non-shooting player may also inspect the position of the table for the express purpose of deciding whether to call a referee to watch a shot. However, they may not inspect the table simply to see whether an object ball has a clear path to a pocket or for any other reason that has no bearing on the need to call a referee.

1.43 Concession of Game

This rule is a natural extension of Rule 1.44, Concession of Match, and is designed to enforce good and proper sportsmanship at the end of every game. It is also specifically designed to acknowledge that the game is frequently the subject of valid interests of

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spectators and media who have a reasonable expectation of viewing a complete game.

The BCAPL strongly encourages all players to complete every game on the table, and to use extra care in choosing their words and actions toward the end of a game. If a dispute arises as to whether a concession has occurred, the referee's judgment will be final.

1. Situation: In a game of 8-Ball, the 8-ball is the only ball left on the table. Player A shoots, misses and scratches, leaving the 8-ball hanging on the lip of a pocket and giving up ball in hand to Player B. Player A takes their chair without saying anything. Player B approaches the table, retrieves the rack and moves the 8-Ball to the rack in preparation for racking the next game.

Ruling: Violation of Rule 1.43.4 by Player B. Loss of game.

2. Situation: In a game of 9-Ball, Player A breaks, makes the 9-ball and scratches. Then: (a) Player B, not realizing that Player A scratched, gathers the balls to the foot of the table in preparation for racking the next game; (b) Player A, not realizing that they scratched, gathers the balls to the foot of the table in preparation for racking the next game.

Ruling: (a) Loss of game for Player B; (b) loss of game for Player A. Both (a) and (b) are violations of Rule 1.43.4

Discussion: (paragraph removed – content covered by new Rule 1.43.4)

1.44 Concession of Match

1. Situation: Players A and B are both on the hill. Player A, having broken the final game of the match with a break cue and not pocketing a ball, retires to the chair. While Player B is at the table, Player A, having their playing cue standing by, unscrews their break cue to put it away.

Ruling: No concession. The cue Player A unscrewed was not their playing cue.

1.45 Unsportsmanlike Conduct;

1.1 Player Responsibility

General Discussion: Unless specifically stated otherwise, no act, failure to act, statement, or omission of information that would normally be legal under the rules is exempt from being penalized under Rule 1.45 if it is the judgment of a referee or other event official that it was committed in an unsportsmanlike manner. At the same time, some fouls that are committed on purpose may not fit within the meaning of "intentional" as used in Rule 1.40.

While it is impossible to conceive of every potential example, the situation from the above discussion of Rule 1.44, Concession of Match, will serve to demonstrate the principle. Despite the specific wording of Rule 1.44 and the Applied Ruling that goes with it, if a referee judged that the timing, body language, relative positions of the

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players, or any other pertinent information relative to the unscrewing of the break cue gave the clear overall effect of an unsportsmanlike act, the player would still be subject to penalties under Rule 1.45.

Another situation is the "intentional" commission of a foul, which frequently occurs when a player executes a shot that gives up ball in hand but still puts their opponent at a disadvantage. This is *not* the type of foul addressed by Rule 1.40. A common example is a player, having solids in an 8-Ball game, intentionally shooting a stripe in order to pocket the ball or move the stripe into an unfavorable position. Even though the shooter gives up ball in hand, they hope that the resulting position of the table works in their favor. That is a commonly accepted practice, and is not considered unsportsmanlike. However, if that same player were to move the stripe into the bad position by contacting it directly with the cue and not using the cue ball at all, it would clearly be unsportsmanlike conduct. (As opposed to only being a simple foul as described in Applied Ruling 1.19 Situation 1. That ruling is primarily written for an accidental situation which occasionally occurs, usually in 9-Ball.)

Particular sensitivity will be applied to issues involving communication between players. Attempts to manipulate the rules concerning communicating and acknowledging called shots, safeties, or other required information will receive special scrutiny. For instance, acknowledging a called shot or safety with a barely perceptible nod and then trying to claim later that you did not acknowledge the call will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. It is incumbent on both players at all times to ensure that clear communication takes place.

Team Penalties

In team play, unsportsmanlike conduct violations committed by team members who are not involved in a game will be penalized as team fouls. Penalties, if applicable to play, will be applied to all tables.

Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct violations committed by team members that are involved in a game may be applied to the player or the team, at the discretion of the referee.

Multiple Violations

General unsportsmanlike conduct warnings and penalties will be noted by event officials and records maintained throughout the event. Penalties specified by the rules as being cumulative during a match carry forward only through the match. However, repeated willful violations of the rules, or any current or previous pattern of misconduct, may be considered by event officials in determining penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct.

1. Situation: During a match, Player A asks Player B if it is legal to use a certain cue. Player B, knowing that the cue is illegal and that it would be a foul to use it: (a) remains silent or responds "I don't know"; (b) gives a response that specifically or implicitly gives Player A permission to use the cue *or leads Player A to believe that the cue is legal*. Player A uses the cue to execute a shot.

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Ruling: (a) foul on Player A; (b) unsportsmanlike conduct by Player B with loss of game for the first violation.

Discussion: Players are not required to assist their opponents in any way. In (a), Player A proceeds at their own peril, and should consult a referee if they desire further information.

In (b), it is willful unsportsmanlike conduct for Player B to trap Player A into a foul.

During a match, players committing the willful act of providing incorrect or misleading information to their opponents are not protected by Rule 1.1.2 if their opponent commits a foul based on that information; in that instance their opponents are relieved of their responsibility under Rule 1.1 for knowledge of the correct information. The protection of Rule 1.1.2 is specifically reserved for event officials and referees.

If you have a question concerning the rules, you should always consult a referee or event official rather than your opponent.

1.46 Spotting Balls; 1.47 Illegally Pocketed Ball (14.1 Continuous)

1. Situation: In 14.1 Continuous, after racking fourteen balls to continue the game, the fifteenth ball is illegally pocketed before the balls at the front of the rack are moved.

Procedure: The fifteenth ball is spotted *without the use of a racking device*. If the 15th ball will not settle in a position that is frozen to the balls in the front row of the rack of fourteen balls, there is no consequence and the game will proceed.

1.48 Non-Player Interference 1.49 Balls Settling or Moving

When playing a shot after a position has been restored, you are not required to attempt the same shot.

APPLIED RULINGS: 8-BALL

2.2 8-Ball Rack

For the purposes of Rule 2.2(d), the common practice of alternating solids and stripes around the outside of the rack is permissible, provided the pattern is altered so there is a stripe in one rear corner and a solid in the other and that the position of any particular ball is not consistent between racks.

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2.3 Break Requirements

1. Situation: *Player A, preparing to break and having placed the cue ball, accidentally contacts the cue ball with a legal stroke motion. The cue ball moves a short distance and does not cross the head string.*

Ruling: *Illegal break under Rule 2.3.1, and foul under Rule 1.19.1. Player B may elect any option under Rule 2.3.3.*

Discussion: *If player B elects option (a) or (b) under Rule 2.3.3, their next shot is not a break and need not meet the break requirements.*

2.4 8-Ball Pocketed on the Break

1. Situation: *Player A breaks and pockets the 8-ball. Before Player A elects an option under Rule 2.4, Player B approaches the table and: (a) picks up the cue ball; (b) gathers the balls to the foot of the table in preparation for a re-rack.*

Ruling: *(a) Foul on Player B. Player A will first make the choice to spot the 8-ball or re-rack. If Player A chooses to spot the 8-Ball, they will have ball in hand anywhere on the table. (b) Loss of game for Player B under Rule 1.43.4.*

Discussion: *In Situation 1(a), although Player A must complete their election under Rule 2.4 in order to continue the game, the foul on Player B occurred after the break shot was been completed, and is therefore penalized appropriately.*

2.6 Establishing Groups

General Discussion, 2.6.3: *If a game has ended and then the players realize they shot the wrong groups, the game is not replayed and the result stands.*

1. Situation: *With the table open, Player A calls a safety and pockets a stripe.*

Ruling: *Legal shot. Player A's inning ends. Player B accepts the table in position. The table is still open. Under Rule 2.6 groups cannot be established by a safety.*

2.8 Loss of Game;

2.10 Safety Play (also "Safety")

If following the advice in the Applied Ruling for "Safety," care should be taken when shooting the 8-ball. In 8-ball, any ball pocketed on a safety, whether intentional or not, is defined as an illegally pocketed ball. If you call a safety while shooting the 8-ball and it is pocketed it is a loss of game under Rule 2.10(a).

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2.9 Shooting the 8-Ball

The 8-ball becomes your legal object ball regardless of whether the last object ball of your group is legally pocketed, illegally pocketed, or jumped. However your “first shot” as referred to in Rule 2.9.1 would not occur in the same inning if your last object ball was illegally pocketed, jumped, or pocketed by your opponent.

2.11, 3.7, 4.10, 6.21 Stalemate

It is not necessary for the referee to observe the three attempts by each player prior to the balls arriving at their position.

If the players agree that the table is in a stalemate position, they may mutually declare a stalemate before each player has completed three innings and without informing a referee.

APPLIED RULINGS: 9-BALL

3.7 Stalemate

See Applied Ruling 2.11

APPLIED RULINGS: 10-BALL

4.10 Stalemate

See Applied Ruling 2.11

APPLIED RULINGS: ONE POCKET and BANK POOL

5.8 Scoring;

5.9 Foul Penalty;

7.10 Foul Penalty

If you illegally pocket a ball and foul on the same shot, you must spot a ball in addition to the ball that was pocketed on the shot. Therefore, two balls are spotted after such a shot (providing you have a ball to spot).

APPLIED RULINGS: 14.1 CONTINUOUS

6.8 Subsequent Racks

If, per Rule 6.9, the cue ball is placed on the center spot and the 15th ball is in the kitchen,

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it is legal to shoot at the 15th ball.

6.10 Illegally Pocketed Ball

See Applied Ruling 1.46, Spotting Balls

6.21 Stalemate

See Applied Ruling 2.11

APPLIED RULINGS: WHEELCHAIR RULES

Players who use a wheelchair or other equipment to assist mobility are not required to follow the restrictions of Rule 8 if they are playing in a non-wheelchair event.

APPLIED RULINGS: REFEREES, EVENT OFFICIALS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

9.1 Authority of the BCAPL Referee

General Discussion, 9.1.3(c): Although such measures are rare, referees are authorized to specifically direct players' actions, including requesting a player to occupy a specific spot, such as sitting in the player's chair, or requesting a player to refrain from engaging in other actions, such as conversing with their opponents or teammates other than when necessary. In addition to the other general encouragement concerning good sportsmanship that appears throughout this publication, here the BCAPL specifically encourages all players to take every possible action to prevent any dispute from reaching a point that requires such action.

Use of such measures is a referee's last resort, and occurs only when players are already engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct and are at peril of being penalized for that conduct. However, if the situation has reached that point and players then continue to disregard referees' instructions, referees are authorized to issue advanced penalties and warnings without hesitation.

9.2 Answering Players' Questions

General Discussion: It is common for referees to be asked questions when off-duty or when on duty but not called to a table.

Should that occur, the referee will first ask if the person if they or their team is involved in a match. If they are, the referee will advise the player to return to their match table and summon an on duty referee with responsibility for that table. If the person is not involved in a match, the referee will attempt to answer the question to the best of their ability or refer the player to the referee's desk.

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After having been involved in a call dealing with a particular rules issue or judgment, some players will seek out other referees independently after the match in an attempt to find a different opinion. They may even do so while the match is still in progress because they are a teammate or friend of the person involved in the call.

Players who do so must realize that they are seeking an answer from a referee who was not involved in the match, who was not at the table to make the call, and who has no way of knowing what the players involved in the call may have told the referee who actually made the call.

Players in a match are protected from incorrect rule applications by the protest procedures established in Rule 9.5. It is unsportsmanlike conduct for any person to attempt to impeach any previous decision by trying to find a different ruling during or after the match by any method other than established protest procedures. If a person does receive a different response, it will not override or affect the prior ruling.

1. Situation: Player A, with the cue ball having been declared frozen to a legal object ball, asks a referee “What is the rule about the cue ball being frozen to the object ball” or any question to that effect.

Procedure: The referee shall inform Player A that they may shoot toward the frozen object ball as long as they use a legal stroke and do not commit a foul.

2. Situation: Same situation as above, but there is another object ball or cushion close by. Player A, after hearing the above response from the referee, asks, “will I foul because of the other ball (or cushion)?”

Procedure: The referee will state they cannot answer this question because it would constitute offering an opinion. They will only judge the result of the shot and make the call. The referee has no way of knowing or predicting the likelihood of a foul involving the nearby ball or cushion.

9.3 Calling Fouls

Placing a match on a shot clock does not constitute the match being presided over by a referee. If players desire a referee to watch the details of a particular shot, they must make a request as in any other match.

1. Situation: After having been called to the table to watch a shot and while the player is preparing to shoot, the referee observes the player accidentally knock a piece of chalk onto the bed of the table. The player is unaware that the chalk is on the bed.

Procedure: The referee shall not alert the player or move the chalk. To do so would potentially alter the course of the match outside of the provisions of the rules. While a match is in progress, the referee will take no action concerning equipment unless it is within the rules and they have been specifically asked to do so by a player.

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9.6 Soliciting Information

While referees are free to solicit information from any source, they are neither required nor specifically encouraged to consult spectators regarding judgment calls. If doing so, the referee should be certain that the spectator is trusted, knowledgeable, preferably trained as an observer or referee, and has no association whatsoever with any player or team member involved in the match.

Referees are neither required nor encouraged to consider video evidence. If a referee chooses to consider video evidence, no call will be overturned unless the video, in the judgment of the referee, provides clear and convincing evidence.