

OFFICIAL RULES OF THE BCA POOL LEAGUE

RULES SECTION 9

REFEREES, EVENT OFFICIALS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

This section provides you with information about the role and responsibilities of the BCAPL referee and other BCAPL event officials. The information in this section carries the same effect as the General Rules.

A referee's role is to ensure that a level playing field exists for all competitors by maintaining order and enforcing the rules of the game. Their primary responsibility is to serve the needs of the players.

9.1 Authority of the BCAPL Referee

1. BCAPL referees are the direct representatives of the BCAPL in all matters concerning the conduct of the actual game on the table.

2. A BCAPL referee is the final authority in all matters of judgment. Matters of judgment include whether:

- a. a stroke or hit was legal or illegal;
- b. a ball did or did not contact a cushion;
- c. a ball is frozen to a cushion or another ball;
- d. a ball is in a certain position with respect to any rule, such as in or out of the kitchen or rack, winner of a lag, etc.;
- e. a shot was considered to be obvious (within the constraints of Rule 1.17);
- f. a position can be restored;
- g. the position of restored balls is accurate;
- h. the table was illegally marked;
- i. the rack is suitable for play;
- j. equipment or conditions are suitable for play;
- k. outside interference has occurred;
- l. coaching has occurred;
- m. a player meets dress code requirements;
- n. a player's conduct is unsportsmanlike.

This list is not necessarily all-inclusive.

3. A BCAPL referee has the authority to:

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- a. suspend play;
- b. warn, penalize or disqualify players for rules infractions;
- c. if necessary, request players to take specific actions (AR p. 90);
- d. request removal of persons other than players who disrupt or interfere with play.

4. A referee's authority extends to the entire event venue at any time the referee is in uniform. A BCAPL referee's authority is also held by other event officials, as designated by the Administrative Authority of that event, whether in uniform or not.

9.2 Answering Players' Questions

1. A referee must answer all players' questions regarding the BCAPL Rules within the following guidelines:

- a. A referee must provide only factual information. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) how many games are needed to win the match;
 - (2) what the penalty is for a specific rules infraction;
 - (3) what rule would apply if a specific shot were taken.
- b. A referee must never offer or provide an opinion concerning information that would affect play. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) whether a legal hit can be made, or what method or type of stroke might be used to execute a shot, unless the matter is specifically referred to in a rule and therefore required to be explained under Rule 9.2.1(a); (AR p. 90)
 - (2) whether a ball will fit through a gap;
 - (3) how the table seems to be playing.
- c. If a player, after receiving either factual information or rules information from a referee, changes their mind about how to proceed with their game or what shot to take, the information provided is not considered to have affected play under the provisions of Rule 9.2.1(b).

2. For issues concerning the conduct of the game on the table, referees are not permitted to approach a table based on a request from anyone other than the players involved in the game. If you require information from a referee during a match, you must make the request yourself. If a referee determines that such a question asked by a person who is not a player in a match pertains to a match in progress, they will not answer the question or go to the table involved.

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9.3 Calling Fouls

1. Referees will call fouls as soon as possible after they occur.
2. When called to a table, a referee will call all fouls that occur while the referee is at the table. (AR p. 91)
3. When making a ruling, a referee will announce the ruling and, if calling a foul, a brief description of the foul or rule that was violated. Some examples are:

“Foul – double hit”;

“Foul – no cushion after contact”;

“Foul – contacted the 3-ball first” (if the 3-ball was an illegal object ball);

“Foul – object ball jumped off table”.

When a scratch occurs or if the cue ball is jumped off the table, it is not necessary for a referee to announce a foul or the basis for the foul.

4. In the matter of judgment calls as referred to in Rule 9.1, a referee is not responsible for explaining to a player the methods used to determine the ruling. At their discretion, a referee may briefly describe the violation, but they are not responsible for giving a player a detailed description of how the ruling was determined.
5. After calling a foul that results in ball in hand, the referee will pick up the cue ball and hand it to the incoming player.
6. A referee will not call a foul or penalize a player in a dispute over a shot that was unseen by the referee if the call would have been a judgment call and the referee cannot clearly determine that a foul occurred. However, if the act that was unseen by the referee involves a rules application, then referees and event officials will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the correct and appropriate ruling is made.

9.4 Responsibility for Multiple Tables

BCAPL matches are usually played with referees having responsibility for more than one table. In those situations, the following procedures apply:

- a. Referees will not make any calls concerning the game on the table unless they have been called to the table by a player *involved in the game*. (*Remainder deleted.*)
- b. When not called to a table, a referee's proximity to a table is not relevant. If a referee observes a foul on a nearby table, they will not make a call unless play was stopped and they were called to the table.
- c. *If a referee observes a player about to commit an act that would be a foul, the referee will take no action to alert the player or stop the foul*

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from being committed.

9.5 Protests, Rules Interpretations, and Final Authority

1. You may protest if you feel a referee has incorrectly applied the rules or made an incorrect rules interpretation. You must make your protest both immediately and prior to the next shot being taken, or it will not be considered. Referees must honor your request, suspend play, and inform their supervisor or the appropriate event official of the protest.
2. Matters involving a referee's judgment may not be protested.
3. The Tournament Director or other designated event official is the final authority on all protests. They may, and should, consult with the senior referee present and other referees as necessary to gather information relative to the protest and for technical assistance if desired. However, no final decision on any protest may be made by any BCAPL referee while acting in the capacity of a referee.
4. In unusual situations, referees, whenever possible, must first look to the event administration for guidance before making a ruling. The tournament director or other designated event official with final protest authority is responsible for making further rules interpretations or applied rulings in unusual situations.
5. If you have a specific issue concerning a referee's conduct that is not related to a judgment call or rules issue, you should contact the Administrative Authority or Head Referee of the event, or the BCAPL National Office.

9.6 Soliciting Information

1. Referees may solicit information from any source to aid them in making their decisions. (AR p. 92)
2. If ruling on a situation or issue which occurred while a referee was not present, the referee will make their best effort to gather the appropriate information required to render a decision, and will make the decision based on that information. However, players are ultimately responsible for ensuring that they provide referees with all relevant information, and a referee is not responsible for information that is not offered or obtained. As in all other cases, after another shot has been taken no previous ruling may be changed or protested, even if it is later discovered that the referee had incomplete or incorrect information at the time of the ruling.

9.7 Suitability of Equipment

Referees will make their best effort to ensure that the tournament equipment is suitable for play and meets BCAPL requirements. During play, players may ask a referee to clean one or more balls, remove excess powder from the bed or rails, or assist in any other way to keep the equipment playable.

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9.8 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Referees are obligated to ensure that players do not engage in any act or activity that, in the referee's judgment, is unsportsmanlike in nature. This includes, but is not limited to, actions that are embarrassing, disruptive, or detrimental to other players, spectators, event officials, or the sport in general.

9.9 Authority to Alter Rules

The Administrative Authority of an event may alter the rules as necessary. If they alter the rules in any way, the Administrative Authority must make a reasonable effort to ensure that:

- a. all players affected by the alteration are properly notified in a timely manner;
- b. the alterations are available to the affected players in writing;
- c. the alterations are properly detailed and complete;
- d. if requested, the alterations are provided to the BCAPL National Office.