



## BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT RULES

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*Participants must present a physical copy of their UGA ID card, a picture of their UGA ID card (front and back), or their Digital Student Profile from Athena before every game... NO EXCEPTIONS!*

### A. OBJECT OF THE GAME

- a. Each player attempts to pocket their seven object balls (stripes or solids) followed by the 8-ball. The first player to do this wins the game.

### B. THE START OF PLAY

- a. Lag for Break
  - i. Each player will shoot an object ball from behind the head string into the foot cushion.
  - ii. The player whose ball is the closest to the innermost edge of the head cushion wins the lag and breaks in the first game.
  - iii. Break alternates between players for the following games.
- b. Racking the Balls
  - i. Object balls are placed randomly in the triangle with the 8-ball in the center and balls of opposite group in each of the bottom corners.
  - ii. Balls should be tightly racked with the head ball in the triangle centered on the foot spot and the bottom edge of the triangle parallel to the foot cushion.
- c. The Break
  - i. Legal Break Shot
    1. The break must either pocket an object ball or drive at least 4 object balls into one or more rails.
    2. If a legal break does not occur, the balls are re-racked, and the non-breaker has the option to break or have the breaker rebreak.
    3. 8-Ball Pocketed on Break
      - a. Automatic win if the 8-ball is pocketed on the break.
      - b. Automatic loss if the 8-ball comes to rest off the pool table.
- d. Open Table
  - i. Following the break, the table is considered open.
  - ii. The players' designated group is determined once a **called** ball is legally pocketed.
  - iii. Any balls can be contacted when the table is open, except for initial contact on the 8-ball.

### C. GAMEPLAY

- a. General Play
  - i. Players continue shooting as they legally pocket their object balls.
  - ii. Play alternates between opponents each time there is a miss, or a foul occurs.
- b. Call Pocket
  - i. Obvious shots do not need to be called.
  - ii. Bank shots, kick shots, and combinations must be called.

- iii. Balls pocketed in unintentional pockets remain pocketed but will be considered a miss and play will proceed to the opponent.
- c. Ball in Hand Fouls
  - i. When a ball in hand foul occurs, play switches to the opponent, and the opponent may place the cue ball **anywhere** on the table (the cue ball does not need to be placed behind the head string).
  - ii. Common ball in hand fouls
    - 1. Touching the cue ball (other than the normal shot)
    - 2. Touching or moving or still object ball
    - 3. Scratch – pocketing the cue ball or driving it off the table
      - a. An automatic loss occurs when on the 8-ball the 8-ball is pocketed, **and** the cue ball is scratched.
    - 4. Bad hit – one of the shooting player’s object balls is not contacted first
    - 5. No rail – neither the cue ball nor any other ball hits a rail
    - 6. Ball off table – object balls knocked off the table are replaced nearest where they left the table
      - a. An automatic loss occurs if the 8-ball is knocked off the table
    - 7. Foot on the floor – at least one foot must be on the ground when the cue ball is contacted

D. CONCLUSION OF GAME

- a. Opponent wins – opponent legally pockets the 8-ball
- b. 8-ball foul – 8-ball comes to rest off the table, 8-ball is pocketed in the wrong pocket or out of order, 8-ball is pocketed, and foul occurs on same shot

**\*\*UPA Official 8-Ball Rules will govern all play for any rule not covered in the above intramural rules\*\***

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