



Mid-North Florida APA Pool League *Most Frequently Asked Questions*



Coin Toss/Lagging/Racking/Breaking

- 1) If I win the coin toss, do I have to put up the first player? **No.** You choose who will put up the first player.
- 2) Do both players have to lag simultaneously? **Yes**, as close as possible.
- 3) Can I use the cue ball to lag? Only if it is the same size as the object ball.
- 4) What if my ball falls into a pocket? **You rack.**
- 5) What if my ball hits the side rail? **You rack.**
- 6) What if our balls make contact with each other? **Re-lag.**
- 7) What if our balls end up stopping at the same point? **Re-lag.**
- 8) If I do not want to break, can I give up the lag to my opponent? **Yes.**
- 9) What is a legal rack? **The 8-ball must be in the center and all balls as tight as possible.** The player breaking does have the right to request that the rack be redone to their liking.
- 10) My opponent is checking the way I rack and is making me redo it repeatedly, what can I do? Suggest politely that someone else rack. No reason to get angry. **Opponent may not rack for themself.**
- 11) What is a legal break? Strike between the first & second ball in the rack, drive four balls to the rail or pocket at least one ball. If the 3rd ball is struck it is not a legal break, it is not a foul. Re-rack.
- 12) Can I bank the cue ball off the back rail to break? **No.**
- 13) What if I don't pocket a ball or drive four balls to a rail? **Your opponent re-racks and you break again.**
- 14) What if I don't drive four balls to a rail, don't pocket a ball, and I scratch? **You rack for the opponent.**
- 15) What if I don't drive four balls to a rail but do pocket a ball? It's going to be a tough game.
- 16) What if the cue ball does not strike the rack? **Try again.**
- 17) What if I jump the cue ball off the table without hitting the rack? **Try again.**
- 18) What if I hit the rack, don't drive 4 balls to the rail and send the cue ball off the table? **See # 14 above.**
- 19) Can I reach out and grab the cue ball if I miscue? **If you are quick enough.**
- 20) Is there a limit as to how many times a player gets to attempt to make a legal break? **No.**
- 21) What if I drop the 8 on the break? **Congratulations, you win!**
- 22) What if I drop the 8 on the break and scratch? **Sorry, you lose.**
- 23) Is it ball-in-hand anywhere on the table for my opponent if I scratch on the break? **In 9-Ball Yes. In 8-Ball, No.** Opponent must shoot from behind the head string. **NOTE:** It is the responsibility of the sitting player to notify their opponent that the cue ball should go behind the head string.
- 24) Do I have to take whatever drops on the break? **Yes.**
- 25) What if I drop both a solid and a stripe? **The table is still open and you have your choice.**
- 26) If I drop 2 solids and 1 stripe do I have to take solids? **No, the table is still open.**
- 27) If the table is open, can I play a combination using a solid to sink a stripe or a stripe to sink a solid? **Yes.**
- 28) If the table is open, can I use the 8-ball to make a combination? **Not if it is going to be the first ball struck. The 8-Ball is never neutral.**
- 29) What if the table is open, I'm shooting at a solid and a stripe falls instead? **You're stripes.**
- 30) What if the table is open, I'm shooting at a solid and both a stripe and solid fall? **The table is still open.**
- 31) Do any other balls that come off the table during my break stay down? **No, they are spotted as close to the spot as possible.** (See page 49 #8 "Balls on the Floor" in The Official APA Team manual for more details)

Official Team Manual page 45 states:

"The rack must be struck before a foul can occur."



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Tables/Equipment

- 32) Does visiting team have choice of table? **No.** The hosting team should make every attempt to be fair in selecting which table will be used for league play. Tables with shimmed pockets should not be used during league play if tables without shimmed pockets are available.
- 33) If the hosting team location's tables are coin operated, do we have to pay to play? **No.** All host locations must agree to open their tables for match play. If a host location refuses or is unable to open their tables for match play, the League Office should be notified immediately.
- 34) Our opponents brought their own cue ball and it's different than those the house provides. Do we have to use it? **No.** Both players involved in a match must agree to use that cue ball prior to the first game of their match. If they cannot agree, then they must use the one provided by the house.
- 35) Our player didn't know that different cue ball was being used until after the first game was over. What can we do? That game is over and nothing can be done but before starting the next game the cue ball must be agreed upon. If the match ends before it is noticed, the match will stand as played.
- 36) Our team didn't find out until after the entire night was over and all matches were played that another cue ball had been used. What can we do? The match will stand as played. It is the responsibility of the players to be aware of the equipment being used.
- 37) Are jump or masse shots allowed? Only if the host location allows those shots and they are executed correctly using your normal game shooting cue. Scooping the cue ball is not considered correct execution.
- 38) Can I break down my cue to make a jump or masse shot? **No.** The cue must be in its full length.
- 39) Can I use a "jump" cue? **No.**
- 40) Can I use my break cue to perform a jump shot? **Not unless it is your normal game shooting cue.**
- 41) Can I shoot with the butt end of my cue? **No.**
- 42) Can I use my own bridge? **Yes.**
- 43) Can I use a cue extender? **Yes.**
- 44) Something doesn't feel right with my cue and I want to change cues. Can I? **Yes,** during your turn.
- 45) The tip came off my cue. Can I change shafts or cues? **Yes,** during your turn at the table.

Split Table Rule

- 46) My opponent wants to play two matches simultaneously on two tables; do I have to agree? Yes if the following is true (1) you are not in the fourth match within 2 hours after starting. (2) There is a table available. You cannot run other customers off and your remaining team members also cannot tie up the table "practicing". This rule can be waived if both teams agree to continue to play on 1 table. Refer to "*Splitting Matches*" in the Official APA Team Manual for more details.

Scoring

- 47) How is a "Bye" or a forfeit scored? 8-Ball: "Byes" = 8 points. Forfeits = 2-0. 9-Ball: "Byes" = 60 Forfeits = 12-0 . Please refer to Local By-Laws.
- 48) My opponent forfeited during our match to avoid my team receiving a 3-0 win. Is that legal? No. Once the players have been designated and the individual match started, deliberate forfeits to manipulate a final team score will result in disciplinary actions, penalty points (3 points in 8 ball & 10 points in 9 ball) and loss of bonus for the offending team. The match will be scored as a 3-0 in 8 ball & 20-0 in 9 ball.



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Playing a Player Twice

The guidelines for playing a player twice in the first 4 weeks of a session are clearly explained in your Local By-Laws. Please take the time to read them so arguments will be avoided.

- 49) When can we play a player twice? **In the first 4 weeks of a session.**
- 50) It is week 5, can my team play a player twice? **NO.**
- 51) Who chooses which of my players will play twice? **The opponent.**
- 52) I only have 4 members right now and all of us are new and non rated can we play a player twice? **No.**
- 53) I only have 4 members now and we are all skill level 5's. Can we play a player twice? **No.**
- 54) I only have one skill level 3 on my roster and they are not here, can my 4 play twice? **No.**
- 55) I only have one skill level 3 on my roster and they are not here, can my 2 play twice? **Yes.**
- 56) When do I have to tell my opponent that my team has to play a player twice? By the **3rd** individual match.
- 57) Can more than 1 player play twice? **No.**
- 58) Can my opponent make me violate the 23 rule? **No.**
- 59) Can we use a "sub" to keep from playing a player twice? **No**, they have to join the team and pay a membership.
- 60) Our opponents told us that they **"would"** be playing a player twice and during the 4th match their missing teammate walked in. Do we have to let that player play? **No.** Your team has the option.
- 61) Our opponents told us that they **"might"** have to play a player twice and their missing players arrived before the 4th match started. Do we have to let them play? **Yes.**
- 62) Our opponent wants to select a player who has left without notifying anyone. Do we have to forfeit that match? **Yes.** All eligible players must remain present until after your opponent has made their selection.
- 63) Can we change our mind after picking a player to play twice? **No.**
- 64) Our opponent wants to choose a player who doesn't have enough money to play a second match. What can we do? This happens quite often and the available team members should all pitch in to pay for that match. Many teams will then collect the funds from the missing players and pay back the others.
- 65) Both teams are short players and choosing to play a player twice. Who picks? Treat it as a normal match with both teams selecting which of their members will play. # 56 and # 59 still apply.

Fouls Or Not?

- 66) I accidentally touch the cue ball. Foul? **Yes.**
- 67) I accidentally move an object ball with my hand or cue stick. Foul? **No.**
- 68) The object ball I accidentally moved hit the cue ball. Foul? **Yes.**
- 69) I shoot and the cue ball does not touch another ball. Foul? **Yes.**
- 70) I kick at my object ball, make contact but nothing hits a rail after contact. Foul? **Yes.**
- 71) I hit my ball first but my opponent's ball was the only ball to hit a rail. Foul? **No.**
- 72) I knocked an object ball off the table, but still pocketed my ball. Foul? **No**, you continue to shoot. Refer to page 49 #8 "Balls on the Floor" in The Official APA Team Manual for more detail.
- 73) My opponent has used up their time outs and another has been called. Foul? **No.** Calling a time out does not constitute a foul. If intentionally done it is a sportsmanship violation and the offending team could be subject to penalties. If it is an unintentional mistake, just notifying the player that they have already used their allotted time outs should settle it.



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Fouls Or Not?

- 74) The other team is coaching their player from the sidelines. Foul? **No.** Sportsmanship violation, file a complaint. The team will be contacted and could face penalties.
- 75) Teammates are coaching the player in between their turn at the table. Foul? **No.**
- 76) Someone other than the coach or player is calling fouls or for time outs. Foul? **No.**
- 77) My opponent's teammate yelled out which ball he/she should shoot, is that a foul? **No**, it is a time-out. If the shooter does not have any time-outs remaining, then it is a sportsmanship violation and opposing team Captain should be given the opportunity to correct the situation. If the problem still persists, the League Office should be notified.
- 78) My opponent touched another ball on the table with the cue ball or their hand while placing the cue ball on the table in a ball-in-hand situation. Foul? **Yes.**
- 79) My opponent accidentally moved one of my object balls into a better position during their shot. Does it have to go back? **Yes.**
- 80) If an object ball is moved accidentally before shooting does it go back to its original position before or after the shot is taken? **Before.**
- 81) If an object ball is accidentally moved while shooting, does it go back to its original position? **Yes**, but after the shot is over and all balls have quit moving.
- 82) I shoot but I accidentally moved another ball and the cue ball strikes the ball I moved before I have a chance to put the ball back. Did I foul? **Yes.**
- 83) While adjusting the cue ball position in a ball-in-hand situation, I used the ferrule of my cue. Foul? **No.**
- 84) While adjusting the cue ball position in a ball-in-hand situation, the leather of my tip touched the cue ball. Foul? **No.** A foul occurs only when you are in the actual process of stroking your cue and the tip touches the cue ball. An adjustment is an adjustment. Using the tip to adjust the cue ball's position in a ball-in-hand situation should be avoided to eliminate any possible arguments.
- 85) Is it a foul to use the butt of the cue to break or make a jump shot? **No.** Sportsmanship violation. League Office needs to be notified - shooter could face penalties.
- 86) Is it a foul for the coach to place the cue ball in a ball-in-hand time out? **No.**
- 87) Is it a foul for the coach to touch the playing surface of the table? **No.**
- 88) Can the coach mark the spot where the player should aim? **No**, they can point out an aiming spot or place a piece of chalk on the rail, but they cannot physically mark the felt of the table.
- 89) Is asking a player "do you want to talk about it" a time out? **Yes.**
- 90) Can the shooter refuse a time-out? **Yes**, but it will still count as one so they might as well take it.
- 91) Can a coach refuse a time-out? **Yes.** As long as no information as to the shot is exchanged it does not count as a time-out.
- 92) Can the coach take the shooter's cue and line up a shot? **Yes**, then they must hand the cue back to the shooter.
- 93) The opponent made a bad hit but didn't see it. Is that a foul? **No.** If a third unbiased party was not called to watch the hit, and there is a disagreement as to whether or not the hit was good – it goes to the shooter.
- 94) A third party was requested to watch a hit. Our team believes the shot was called wrong, can we dispute the call? **No.** Once a call has been made by a third party it stands.



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- 95) We had “Joe” watch a hit and he called it bad, but “Bob” was also watching from the sidelines said it was good. What can we do? **Nothing.** You agreed to accept Joe’s call. What Bob saw doesn’t matter.
- 96) Our opponent wants to call a “friend” over to watch a hit. Can we refuse their “friend” as the third party? **Yes.** The third party should be unbiased.
- 97) Our Division Rep is busy playing a match when we need a shot watched. What do we do? Ask another unbiased third party that is not involved in a match.
- 98) I told my opponent where I intended to pocket the 8-ball but did not put a marker down. I made the 8-ball in that pocket. Foul? **Yes.** Loss of game. The pocket must be marked.
- 99) I was kicking at the 8-ball and did not hit it. Foul? **Yes, but not loss of game.**
- 100) I marked the pocket for the 8-ball. I hit it really bad and a little too hard. It went the wrong direction and made contact with several rails and other balls that caused it to still drop in the pocket I marked. Do I win? **Yes,** and I want some of your luck!
- 101) Neither I nor my opponent checked to see if my object ball was “frozen” before taking my shot. They said I fouled because it was, did I? Official Team Manual Game Rules Item 14. For the “frozen ball” rule to be in effect, the ball **must be declared “frozen” and verified as such by the shooter and the opponent.** If they cannot agree, then a 3rd party should be asked to determine if a ball is frozen.

In General

- 102) My team will be missing players for league this week. Can I request to do makeup matches? **Yes.** With 24hour notice, your opponent must allow you to do makeup. Without 24 notice, they can choose to take the forfeit(s). Please refer to your local by-laws for makeup guidelines.
- 103) All our players didn’t show up for league play. Do we still have to pay the full league fees? **Yes.**
- 104) Our opponents had to forfeit matches. Do we still pay the full league fees? **Yes.**
- 105) Next week is a holiday! What can we do? Contact your opponent now and re-schedule. See #105 above.
- 106) My team member’s skill levels have moved up to where we can’t field 23. What are our choices? You can field 4 players to 19, forfeiting the 5th match or if you have room on your roster, and the deadline hasn’t been reached, add new lower skill level players with League Office approval.
- 107) My team wants to add another player tonight and it’s after the 4th week. Can we? **Yes,** if it is not the Spring session and your team is not qualified, but you must notify the League Office first, collect the APA membership for that player and submit a membership form with your paperwork. If these steps are not taken you could forfeit any points that player earned for the night as well as your team’s bonus point.
- 108) One of our players doesn’t have enough money to pay for their match. Can they play anyway? **Yes,** if someone wants to cover their fees. Otherwise your team will lose the bonus point and have a past due.
- 109) My team wants to quit. Can we quit now and start over next session? **No.** When a team drops out in the middle of a session it disrupts the entire division. If your team drops out, every member becomes responsible for their share of the remaining session. Each member will be required to repay his/her share of that lost revenue before being allowed to play again.
- 110) How much debt will my team incur if it drops out? Weekly fees x 2 (your team fees + opponents) x remaining weeks in session = debt.
- 111) Is the team captain solely responsible for this debt? **No,** all players on the roster are responsible for their share of the debt.



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- 112) I'm not happy on my current team. Can I switch teams this session? **Yes**, prior to the 4th week of the session or if the team you want to join is in a different division.
- 113) Can I play on more than 1 team? **Yes**, if they are in different divisions.

In General

- 114) Do I have to pay the \$25 membership fee for every team I'm on? **No**. One yearly membership allows you to play in as many divisions as you like.
- 115) My opponent shoots softly at a ball that is frozen to the rail. The ball comes off the rail into the cue ball and back again to the same rail. Do I get ball-in-hand? **Yes**, if you pointed out to the opponent that the ball was frozen to the rail prior to the shot. No, if you did not. It is your responsibility to tell your opponent that a ball he/she is shooting at is frozen to a rail.
- 116) Our Team Captain hasn't shown up in weeks or contacted anyone. What can we do? Select a new Team Captain from those on your roster.
- 117) Our team has a player that never has money to pay for their matches, what should we do? Replace the player before he/she causes your team to lose eligibility due to their debts.
- 118) The team we are playing is bragging about how they have "sandbagged" all session. What can we do? Notify the League Office. Remember, it takes 2 teams to allow someone to successfully cheat or "sandbag". If your team is not marking defensive ("no intent") shots on the score sheet for the shooters, then you are allowing them to "sandbag" or cheat. If only 1 team is marking defensive shots on both players, then the League Office gets a clear picture of which teams are attempting to cheat and which are not. The only way a team can successfully "sandbag" is if everyone else lets them. Stress to the other teams in your division the importance of defensive shots and "sandbagging" will not be an issue.
- 119) My opponent is deliberately missing shots bragging that this will lower his/her handicap and raise mine. What can I do? Notify the League Office and whenever there is no intent to pocket a ball, mark the player for a defensive shot. The software calculates your handicap based on your performance, not your opponent's.
- 120) The opponent's scorekeeper isn't keeping score right. What can we do? Notify the League Office in the message center of your score sheet. You might want to offer assistance and make sure that your own scorekeeper is paying close attention and keeping score correctly.

Higher Level Tournaments (HLT's)

- 121) What are "HLT's"? HLT's are "Higher Level Tournaments" such as the World Pool Qualifier (WPQ) and World Pool Championship (WPC).
- 122) My team has qualified for WPQ's. Do we have to continue playing? **Yes**. Qualified teams must play the Spring session to maintain eligibility. See "Tournament Information and Rules" in the Official APA Team Manual.
- 123) My team is past due in fees. Can we still play in the HLT's? **No**. Teams must be current in all fees.
- 124) My job is changing my schedule and I won't be able to continue playing on league night. Can I still play with my team at the HLT's? **Yes**, as long as you meet all life-time match requirements and you played at least 4 times with your team during the Spring session.
- 125) My team is not going to the Tri-Cup. Do we still receive a payout? **No**. All qualified teams must attend and participate in the tournament to receive any payout.



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Player Etiquette

- 126) My opponent disrupts me while I am shooting, what do I do? Politely ask them to be considerate while it is your turn at the table. If that doesn't help you may file a complaint with the League Office that can lead to disciplinary actions on the offending player or team. Other suggestions: If an opponent becomes unbearable talk with his/her team captain. If it gets too bad, leave and notify the league office.
- 127) My opponent stands right next to me while I'm shooting. How far back should the non-shooting player be from the table? 6 feet if area permits.
- 128) My opponent keeps standing in my line of sight during my turns. What can I do? Politely ask them to move. If they continue, politely ask their team captain to explain table etiquette to them.

If The Opponent Starts Pulling Balls Out On The Table Before The Cue Ball Has Come To A Stop?

This is not a concession of game. Although the opponent should wait until the cue ball has come to a complete stop before approaching the table to eliminate all arguments, it is not a foul if they do so. If the cue ball continues to roll and drops into a pocket resulting in a scratch without any interference, it is a loss of game to the shooter. If any of the balls that the opponent is pulling from the pockets interfere with the movement of the cue ball, it is a win for the shooter.

If The Opponent Breaks Down Their Stick While You Are On The 8-Ball?

Unfortunately, there are those unscrupulous players who would deliberately stand in a shooter's line of view and disassemble their cue sticks in order to "shark" or interrupt the shooter's concentration while on the 8-ball. At the same time, there are many new players who do not realize that it is poor etiquette to do this and unless they are informed about it may do so without thinking of it as a concession or "sharking". The APA does not condone "sharking" of any sort, however nowhere in the Official Team Manual does it state that a player may not disassemble and re-assemble the *same* cue in a game. Therefore, the League Office ruling is:

While in the process of shooting the 8-ball if the opponent breaks down his/her cue in plain view of the shooter, then the shooter should ask if they are conceding the game. If the opponent says "no" then it should be explained to them why they are being asked this and given the opportunity to learn what is considered table/match etiquette. In many cases the opponent will be apologetic and will learn to stand out of the shooter's line of view. If the opponent responds "yes", then the shooter does not have to shoot the 8-ball.

If the shooter chooses to go ahead and shoot at the 8-ball and misses, without acknowledging the opponent breaking down his/her cue in their line of view, then the opponent may re-assemble the same cue with which they have been playing and shoot.

If the shooter does not see the opponent break down his/her cue, then obviously there has been no attempt to "shark", therefore it is not a concession of game. If anyone other than the shooter witnesses the opponent breaking down his/her cue and starts hollering, then it was the witness who "sharked" the shooter, not the opponent and there has been no concession of the game. The shooter will have to pocket the 8-ball to win. The opponent will have the right to reassemble his/her cue and continue if necessary.

In these situations it should be clear that ***it only matters what the shooter sees, not the shooter's teammates.***



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When is a game considered a “Stalemate”

During any game, if neither player can benefit with ball in hand, the game is considered a stalemate.

In 8-Ball: Score keepers should mark the game box with a “SM” or a big “X” and disregard all innings and defensive shots marked during that rack. A new game should be started with the winner of the previous game breaking.

In 9-Ball: Score keepers will mark any balls remaining on the table as “dead”. The players retain all points earned during that rack and all defensive shots and innings will still apply. The next rack will be broken by whoever sank the 9-ball in the previous game.

Technicality Calls

The Official APA Team Manual provides players with rules by which all members should play. Understanding the spirit of the rule, or rather, why the rule had to be written is necessary to eliminate technicality calls. It is unfortunate that in any form of league play there will always be teams that search for ways to win by interpreting a rule to their advantage. These teams tend forget the “spirit” of league play and that the main idea is to have fun. Yes, the rules are there in black & white and everyone should be aware of the rules. But there are many occasions when a good sport will overlook a technicality and accept defeat. Remember the quote on page 2 of your Team Manual:

“Relax, enjoy yourself and play within the Spirit of the Rules as well as the written rule. It is impossible to cover every situation 100% with rules. Common sense must prevail. Teams that try to gain advantage by creating their own interpretation are subject to sportsmanship violations. ***Win at the table and not from the chair*** is a generality that promotes harmony, camaraderie and good times. That’s what this League is all about.”

Match Requirements

For session Tri-Cups:	4 on the team during the session 7 lifetime
Best of the Best:	7 within the session
Singles:	10 lifetime in the past 2 years
WPQ & WPC:	4 on the team during Spring Session – 10 lifetime by the end of the Spring session.
National Doubles:	20 lifetime in the format being played with in the last 2 years.