



WPBA TOURNAMENT 9-BALL RULES

Object of the Game

Nine ball is played with nine object balls numbered one through nine and a cue ball. On each shot the first ball the cue ball contacts must be the lowest-numbered ball on the table, but the balls need not be pocketed in order. If a player pockets any ball on a legal shot, she remains at the table for another shot, and continues until she misses, fouls, or wins the game by pocketing the nine ball. After a miss, the incoming player must shoot from the position left by the previous player, but after any foul shot the incoming player may start with the cue ball anywhere on the table. Players are not required to call any shot except to declare a push out.

Racking the Balls

RACK YOUR OWN:

The object balls are racked in a diamond shape, with the one ball at the top of the diamond, the nine ball in the center of the diamond, **the two ball** in the rear of the rack, and the other balls in random order, racked with all balls touching, as close as possible.

If desired, the opponent may choose to inspect the rack, and ask for one re-rack. If after second inspection the opponent is still not satisfied with the rack, the Tournament Director/Referee will be called over to rack the balls. At this point, the breaker must accept the Director's rack and break the balls but may also inspect the rack.

The Tournament Director may also decide to rack the balls at the opponent's request if he feels this is conducive to speeding up play, or if he deems the player is taking an inordinate amount of time to rack the balls. The Tournament Director may also appoint a person to rack for the match.

The Tournament Director may also act as the table referee or appoint a table referee in the semi-finals or final matches. The table referee will rack the balls for both players.

Order of Play

Order of play is determined by a lag. Player's "cue ball" arriving closest to the head rail wins the option to break or have opponent break, providing their "cue ball" did not touch the long cushion, cross the center of the table, strike the foot cushion more than once, scratch, or come to rest inside the pocket. Subsequent breaks (winner or alternate format) will be announced in the event information.

Legal Break (non-template rack)

To be legal, the cue ball must travel from its initial spot behind the head string and strike the one ball, driving at least four balls to any rail. Once the cue ball has passed the head string by striking the cue ball with the cue tip, it will be considered an attempt to break.

If player attempts to break and the cue ball traveled past the head string, the player may not stop or impede cue ball by any means, and she may not double hit cue ball. Such actions are considered fouls.

If a legal break does not occur, the incoming player may:

1. Take cue ball in hand and shoot as is.
2. Rack the balls and re-break.
3. Give the opponent the break.

If the rack is undisturbed, and the cue ball has traveled past the head string, the cue ball must be placed behind the head string, and the incoming player has the option to break or have their opponent re-break.

Legal Break: Template Rack (same as non-template except for if legal break does not occur)

1. On the break, a minimum of 3 numbered balls must be pocketed or touch the headstring line or a combination of both. To touch the headstring line means three balls must touch (break) the headstring line.
2. If a player fails to meet the requirements in (1), but otherwise makes a legal break, the incoming player has the option to accept the table as is, or hand the shot back to her opponent.
3. In accepting the table as is, the incoming player is not permitted to play a “push out”. She must play a legal shot.
4. If the table is handed back to the breaker, she is allowed to play a “push out”. If so her opponent will then have the choice to play the shot or hand it back.
5. If a player fails to meet the requirements of (1), but otherwise makes a legal break and pockets the 9-ball, the 9-ball is spotted before the next shot.

9-Ball Break

The 9-ball will not count in the bottom two pockets (nearest where the balls are racked). If this occurs, the 9-ball is spotted and the breaker shoots from where the cue ball lies.

Push Out

The player who shoots the shot immediately after a legal break may play a push-out. On a push-out, the cue ball may contact **any** ball, and is not required to contact a rail. You do not have to contact a ball to be a legal push-out. All other foul rules still apply.

The player must announce her intention of playing a push out before the shot, or the shot is considered to be a normal shot. To avoid conflict, make eye contact with the opponent when declaring a push-out.

Any ball pocketed on a push remains pocketed except the 9-ball, which is spotted on the foot spot. Following a legal push-out, the incoming player is permitted to shoot from that position or to pass the shot back to the player who pushed out.

A push-out is not considered to be a foul unless the cue ball or an object ball comes to rest off the playing surface or the cue ball scratches. An illegal push-out is penalized with ball in hand for the opponent. If a player scratches on the break shot, the incoming player cannot play a push-out.

Legal Shot

To be a legal shot, the cue ball must always hit the lowest-numbered ball first and either cause an object ball to be pocketed or cause any ball, including the cue ball, to contact a rail. Failure to do so is a foul, with incoming player taking cue ball in hand.

Continuing Play

If the breaker pockets one or more balls on a legal break, she continues to shoot until she misses, fouls, or wins the game. If the player misses or fouls, the other player begins her inning and shoots until she misses, fouls, or wins. The game is won when the nine ball is pocketed on a legal shot.

Positioning with Ball in Hand

It is legal to position the cue ball with your hand, arm or cue stick (including ferule and tip) as long as there is no attempt at a shot taking place while this is happening.

Fouls

A foul is committed when:

- ◆ A player pockets the cue ball, fails to strike the lowest numbered ball first, or fails to drive any ball to a rail after legal contact.
- ◆ Any ball comes to rest off the playing surface.
- ◆ A player touches the cue ball in play; purposely touches an object ball; or accidentally disturbs an object ball that has any effect on the outcome of the shot. At the non-shooting player's option and discretion, the disturbed ball may be restored to its original position or left in its new position. If, after the non-shooting player exercises this option and the resulting position of the object ball affects the shot outcome, it is still not a foul.
- ◆ If two or more object balls are inadvertently disturbed during the same shot.
- ◆ When placing the cue ball during ball in hand, if you move any ball with the cue ball or with your hand or arm that the cue ball is in.
- ◆ During an attempt to jump, curve or masse the cue ball over or around an impeding object ball, the impeding ball moves (regardless if it was moved by a hand, cue stick or bridge).
- ◆ You miscue while executing a jump shot or masse.

- ◆ The intended object ball is frozen to a rail, the player fails to either pocket a ball, drive the cue ball to a rail, send an object ball to a rail, or send the object ball to another rail. **NOTE:** For this rule to be in effect, the frozen object ball must be declared by the non-shooting player and acknowledged by the shooting player prior to the shot taking place.
- ◆ A shot is played without having at least one foot on the floor at the moment the cue tip strikes the cue ball.
- Touching a moving ball or to allow that ball to hit any foreign object, such as a cube of chalk (the top of the rail is not considered to be a foreign object).
- * A shot is played while any ball is in motion (a spinning ball is in motion).
- ◆ A player strikes the cue ball below center ("digs under it") and intentionally causes it to rise off the bed of the table in an effort to clear an obstructing ball.
The cue ball is frozen to an illegal object ball and that ball is moved in the process of shooting.
- ◆ The tip of the cue stick strikes the cue ball more than once during the execution of a shot or is still in contact with the cue ball when it strikes the object ball (including a push-out).
NOTE: When the cue ball is frozen to, or close to, the object ball and the player is shooting directly at the object ball, it is difficult to see the double hit. Therefore, in this situation, if the cue ball travels at a similar speed as the object ball, a foul will be called.

Other Possible Ball in Hand fouls:

Devices

Players are not allowed to use a ball, rack or any width measuring device to see if the cue ball or an object ball would travel through a space between two balls or ball and cushion etc. Doing so is a foul. Only the cue stick may be used as an aid to judge gaps, etc., so long as the cue is held by the hand. To do so otherwise is a foul.

Catching Balls

During play, a player may not catch, touch, or in any way, deliberately, interfere with a ball as it enters a pocket. The incoming player will receive ball in hand, including if the ball does not fall into the pocket

Equipment

Preparing to shoot a ball along the cushions and across the mouth of a side pocket, and pushing on the tip of the cushion or manipulates the cloth at the tip of the side pocket regardless of whether the player attempts the shot or not. Result: Foul

Rail Safety

When an object ball is close to a rail but not frozen, and the players are taking turns softly tapping the object ball with the cue ball to the same rail, this is called a rail safety or nursing. The player who performed this shot first must make the cue ball hit any rail, make an object ball hit a rail, or make the object ball go to a different rail on her third attempt - or it is a foul.

Other rules:

Settling Into Place

A ball may settle slightly after it appears to have stopped. If a ball falls into a pocket as the result of such settling, after being immobile for 5 seconds, it is replaced as close as possible to its original position. If a ball falls into a pocket during or just prior to a shot, and has an effect on the shot, the tournament director will restore the position and the shot will be replayed. Players are not penalized for shooting while a ball is settling.

Three Consecutive Fouls

If the same player commits three consecutive fouls during a game, it is loss of game. Any foul committed on the break counts towards the three foul rule. The opponent, or referee, if present, must warn player that she is on two fouls, for third foul to result in loss of game; otherwise player remains on two fouls unless a legal hit is executed.