

# 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.

Some Applied Rulings are presented in a "situation-and-effect" style. They are self-explanatory. There are also some general discussions of various rules in order to clarify the intent or reasoning behind the development of those rules. In some cases there is even advice to players to help you avoid disputes. General Discussions are not necessarily associated with the Situations that follow. If a Situation requires 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.

Another specific reason for inclusion of this material is the BCAPL's belief that no Administrative Authority, Tournament Director or referee should ever have access to or enforce any rule, regulation or procedure that any player does not have knowledge of, or at least access to that knowledge.

Finally, you might read some of the Applied Rulings and think to yourself "Who dreamed this stuff up? This would never happen!" However, every issue addressed in the Applied Rulings or the rules themselves has either actually occurred in past BCA or BCAPL events or has been the subject of an inquiry by players, administrators or referees. It is expected that the Applied Rulings will expand over the

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coming years as unforeseen situations continue to occur.

*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 or traditional 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

#### **Combination Shot; Carom; Kiss; (also 1.17, Calling *Ball and Pocket*)**

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. Consider figure 10-1:

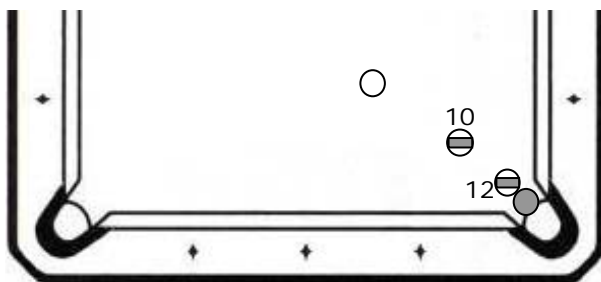


Figure 10-1

The player may call the 12-ball in the corner pocket, intending to roll it in after the solid ball is pocketed first. It is still a combination shot as defined in these rules.

While it may be argued what terms to use to describe the effect of the presence of the solid ball in Figure 10-1, the point here is specifically *not* to debate the fine distinctions that may be commonly argued between the terms "combination", "carom" and "kiss". Those terms are addressed in the definitions sufficiently and clearly enough to impart the intended desire within the framework of these rules. Two more examples follow:

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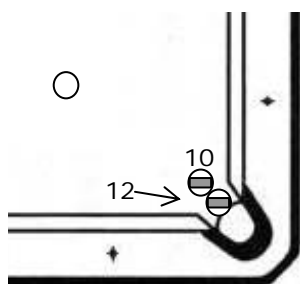


Figure 10-2

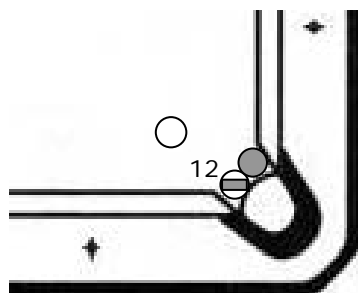


Figure 10-3

Figure 10-2 depicts a combination shot. This figure is included specifically to emphasize the provision of Rule 1.17 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, 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 of 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 the whether or not the shot was a combination.*

### 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.

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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.

### **Safety; 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.

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 bad 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 bad 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 to stop short of requiring the player who unintentionally pocketed the ball to shoot again under every circumstance. In many situations like this, the unintentionally pocketed ball is the result of a combination or bank, which do not apply to this problem because those shots are *defined* as not obvious and *must* be called. However, in the final analysis it was decided that enough situations may arise in which the pocketed ball was a 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.

A player in the chair 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

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intentions clearly to your opponent. While that is not required by the rules, 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.

### APPLIED RULINGS: GENERAL RULES

#### 1.2 Acceptance of Equipment

General Discussion: Play may not be stopped or delayed unless conditions are severe. Particularly in tournament play, 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. Penalties in accordance with the General Rules and specific game rules.***

#### 1.3 Use of Equipment

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

***Ruling: Illegal. Only a single cue stick, held in the hand or not, may be used. Penalties in accordance with Rule 1.3 **and specific game rules.*****

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

***Ruling: Illegal. The equipment is not being used in the manner in which it was intended. Penalties in accordance with Rule 1.3 **and specific game rules.*****

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**3. Situation:** *Player A shoots a jump shot. The cue 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. Penalties in accordance with the General Rules and specific game rules.*

**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) and (b): The result of the shot stands and the game continues.*

**Discussion, Situations 3 and 4:** *The shooter is responsible for all equipment that is at the table regardless of who actually owns the equipment.*

**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 an illegal measurement is determined by the referee's judgment. Penalties in accordance with Rule 1.3.3 and specific game rules.*

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

**Ruling:** *Foul. The equipment is not being used in the manner in which it was intended. Penalties in accordance with Rule 1.3.3 and specific game rules.*

### 1.4 Cue Stick Requirements (also 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.*

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***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. Penalties in accordance with Rule 1.11 and specific game rules.

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

***Ruling:*** (a) No foul, but the cue stick must be removed from play; (b) Foul. Penalties per Rule 1.4 and specific game rules. The cue stick must be removed from play.

### 1.5 Starting Time of Match; 1.11 Time Out

**General Discussion:** "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. Just entering the doors of the room that are a considerable distance away and then running 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.

### 1.8 No Practice Allowed During Match

**1. Situation:** During a match Player A, after missing a shot, approaches an unused table on which there are 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 motion to tap an object ball that was left over from a previous match, contacting the ball with the tip of the cue stick and rolling it a few inches.

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Ruling: (a) and (b): Foul. ***Penalties in accordance with the Rule 1.8, the General Rules and specific game rules.***

Discussion: Any forward 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 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 stick to push balls left over from the previous game down to the foot of the table, contacting the balls with the cue tip.

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.

***General Discussion: 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. After the referee has verified 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 in accordance with Rule 1.8.3(b), the General Rules and specific game rules.***

### **1.9 Stopping Play;** **1.17 Calling Ball and Pocket**

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 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. For the intent of preserving fair play, with respect to 1.9 and 1.17 "down on the shot" means having settled completely into a shooting position with a bridge firmly established and

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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 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, in order to try to prevent that situation from occurring it is the responsibility of the player in the chair to remain alert and make every effort to anticipate situations in which they 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. You must make any request to stop play before your opponent is down on the shot.***

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.

### 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.

If the procedure for breaking subsequent games of a match calls for alternating breaks, and 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

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either specific game rules or event rules, and you may not voluntarily pass the break to your opponent.

### 1.14 Racking Procedures

***General Discussion:*** *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 initiate 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 which, despite the 30 second limit provided by Rule 1.16, is not excessive enough to be considered unsportsmanlike or merit the application of a shot clock without further guidance from higher authority. You are encouraged to not pursue relief from a referee unless circumstances are severe.

***If a match is placed on a shot clock, it does not constitute the match being presided over by a referee. If players desire a referee to watch a particular shot they must still make a request as in any other match.***

***1. Situation:*** *The timekeeper or referee calls "Foul" just as Player A is driving the cue stick 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 was called.*

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***Ruling: Foul. Penalties in accordance with the General Rules and specific game rules. Unless otherwise stated in specific game rules, Player B accepts the object balls in position.***

### 1.17 Calling Ball and Pocket (also see 1.9, Stopping Play)

***General Discussion: 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.***

Figure 10-4 applies to the following situations. Multiple shots are represented. In all cases Player A is shooting and has solids as the established group.

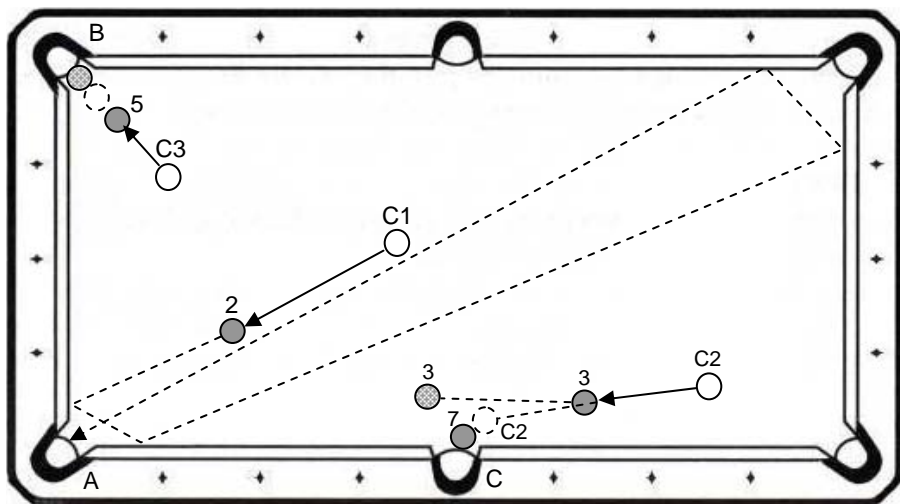


Figure 10-4

**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

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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 1.17.6 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. This is an incidental carom under Rule 1.17.1. 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.

Discussion: In the past, the concept traditionally applied to calling shots has been to credit the shooter for shots such as described situations 1 and 2, and the BCAPL will maintain that practice. However, with the wording of Rule 1.17.3 becoming stricter concerning calling bank, kick and combination shots, Rule 1.17.6 and Applied Ruling 1.17 were developed so that the rigid wording of Rule 1.17.3 does not interfere with the traditional concept.

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 kisses 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 BCAPL Bank Pool, in which the specific number of rails to be contacted must be designated in advance and incidental kisses are not permitted.

### 1.19 Legal Shot

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

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**Ruling:** Foul. *Penalties in accordance with the General Rules and specific game rules. Unless otherwise stated in specific game rules, 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(c), any ball that rebounds from a pocket shall be considered to have contacted a cushion.

### 1.20 Object Ball frozen to Cushion

Figure 10-5 applies to the following situation. The 3-ball near pocket A has been examined and declared frozen to the cushion.

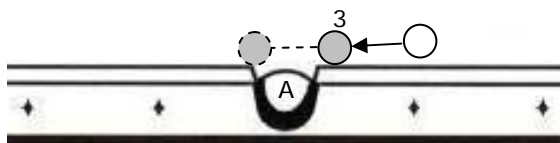


Figure 10-5

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

**Ruling:** Foul. The 3-ball did not contact a cushion attached to a separate rail as required by 1.20.1(c), nor were any other requirements of 1.20.1 met.

### 1.21 Cue Ball Frozen to Object Ball or Cushion

Figure 10-6 shows an example to demonstrate the effect of Rule 1.21.3.

In figure 10-6, the cue ball is frozen to the 10-ball, with the 3-ball close by but not frozen to the cue ball. Under Rule 1.21.1, 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 1.31** may occur with respect to the cue ball and 3-

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ball, creating a foul under Rule 1.31 regardless of the legality of the initial contact with the 10-ball.

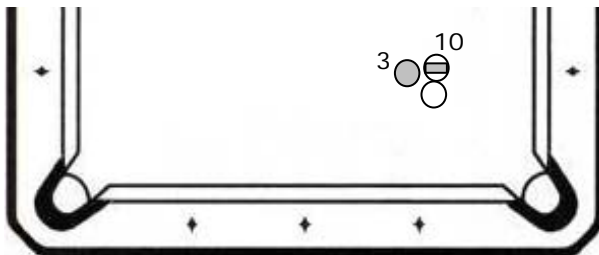


Figure 10-6

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.

### 1.29 Balls Jumped Off the Table;

### 1.34 Jump and Massé Shots

General Discussion: 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 if having to verbally reconstruct a situation for a referee.

### 1.31 Double Hit

General Discussion: *The term "slight angle" used in Rule 1.31.2 is often referred to in various other ways, including the common terms "thinning", "feathering", "sharp cut" or "very fine angle". 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 numerous factors, and the referee's judgment is final.*

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### 1.33 *Disturbed Balls (Cue Ball Fouls Only)*

General Discussion: “Outcome of the shot” is considered to only mean the action of the balls on the table as a result of the immediate shot, and has no relation 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 1.33.4 that results in the offended player being left in an undesirable position. While considering the effects 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 1.33.4, it may be considered to be unsportsmanlike conduct and the offended player may be awarded a remedy to counteract the offense.

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 are considered to be a single act. Player B may elect options in accordance with Rule 1.33.3.

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

Ruling: *Foul. In addition, it is a violation of Rule 1.40(c). Penalties in accordance with Rule 1.33.3, 1.40 and specific game rules. The disturbed ball must be restored.*

### 1.36 Shooting with Ball in Hand Behind the Head String

General Discussion: The only relevant information concerning this rule is the position of the object or cue ball as defined by Rule 1.35, which

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is the *base* of the balls involved, when contact is made with another ball or a cushion. The edges of the ball have no relevance.

Figure 10-7 presents a diagram for the situations that follow. Multiple cue ball positions 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). In all situations Player A has cue ball in hand behind the line.

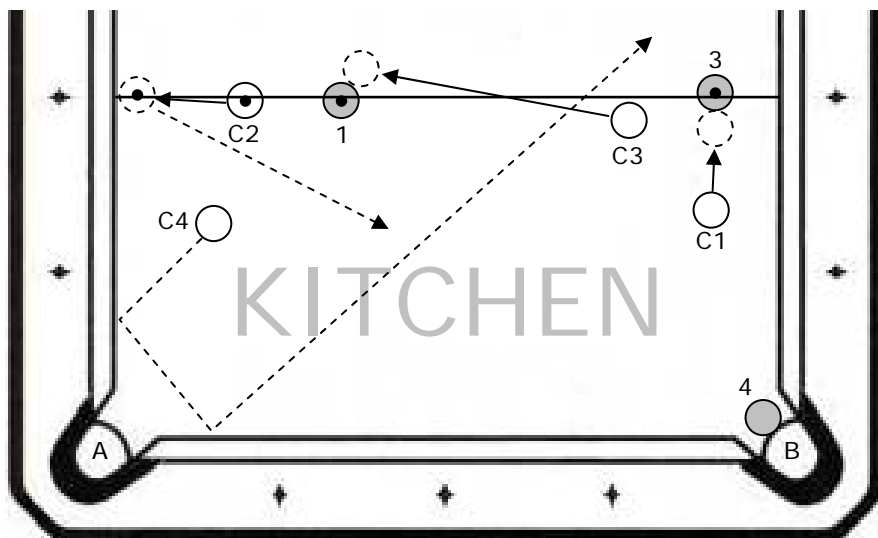


Figure10-7

**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 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).

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**3. 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).

**4. Situation:** Player A calls the 1-ball in Pocket A, and then shoots from position C3, cutting the 1-ball into Pocket A. When the cue ball strikes the 1-ball the cue ball is below the head string.

**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.

**Penalties in accordance with the General Rules and specific game rules.**

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

**Ruling:** Foul. The cue ball's contact with the first cushion was behind the line (in the kitchen). Penalties in accordance with the General Rules and specific game rules.

### 1.38 Ball In Hand Placement

**1. Situation:** Player A, with ball in hand, drops the cue ball into a pocket.

**Ruling:** Player A still has ball in hand.

### 1.41 Coaching

**General Discussion:** 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.

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*(Remainder of AR 1.41 deleted.)*

### **1.42 Non-Shooting Player Requirement**

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

However, 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 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:*** *Loss of game by Player B under Rule 1.43.3.*

***Discussion:*** *This is a "reverse concession". By assuming Player A would award them the game because of the certain easy shot, Player B illegally awarded themselves the game.*

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### 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 stick Player A unscrewed was not their playing cue stick.

### 1.45 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

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.

While it is impossible to conceive 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 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 which 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 stick and not using the cue ball at all, that would clearly be considered unsportsmanlike conduct as opposed to a 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.

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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 that the shot was not called and acknowledged will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. It is incumbent on both players at all times to ensure that clear communication takes place.

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

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

**Progression of penalties under Rule 1.45.4: This ruling applies to rules requiring a sequence of mandatory unsportsmanlike conduct warnings or penalties (Rules 1.3, 1.4, 1.8, 1.39, 1.40, 1.41, and 1.43). For each separate rule violated:**

- a. ***the sequence of penalties shall advance only for subsequent violations of the specific numbered rule. Violations of different subheadings of a numbered rule shall be considered to be violations of the same rule;***
- b. ***violations will continue to accrue for the duration of the event. For events with multiple tournaments (for example: singles, teams, doubles) violations only accrue within each particular event.***
- c. ***violations shall be noted by event officials and records maintained. Continued and persistent violations of different rules may be considered to be a pattern of misconduct and may be penalized as general unsportsmanlike conduct as opposed to specific rule violations.***

***General unsportsmanlike conduct warnings and penalties shall be noted by event officials and records maintained. Warnings and penalties shall be recorded and shall be cumulative for the duration of the entire event, including all separate tournaments within the same event.***

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### 1.46 Spotting Balls

**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 contacted.*

**Procedure:** *The fifteenth ball is spotted without the use of a racking device. If the fifteenth 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 shall proceed.*

### 1.49 Balls Settling or Moving

*Under Rules 1.49.4(b) and (c), if the position is restored and the player shoots again, they are not required to attempt the same shot.*

## APPLIED RULINGS: 8-BALL

### 2.2 8-Ball Rack

**General Discussion:** *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 corner and a solid in the other and that the position of any particular ball is not consistent between racks.*

### 2.5 Establishing Groups

**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 2.8, the stripe pocketed by Player A on the safety is an illegally pocketed ball, and groups cannot be established by such a shot.

### 2.8 Shooting the 8-Ball

**General Discussion:** The 8-ball becomes your legal object ball regardless of whether the last object ball of your group is legally

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pocketed, illegally pocketed, or jumped. However your "first shot" as referred to in Rule 2.8.1 would not occur in the same inning if your last object ball was illegally pocketed, jumped, or pocketed by your opponent.

### 2.9 Loss of Game

General Discussion: 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 2.9(a).

#### 2.11 Stalemate (also Rules 3.7, 4.7 and 6.21)

General Discussion: *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 are in agreement that the table is in a stalemate position, they may mutually declare a stalemate before each player has completed three innings and without the assistance of a referee.*

## 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 requiring such action.

Using such measures are a referee's last resort and occur 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'

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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 this occur, the referee will first ask if the player or their team are 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 player 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.*

*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 rulings by the protest procedures established in Rule 9.4. 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.*

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

**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 be to 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.*