

Santa Barbara Scotch Doubles League

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SCOTCH DOUBLES RULES & REGULATIONS

Please familiarize yourself with these regulations and follow them carefully. **Standard SBPL 8-ball rules apply**, with the following clarifications, additions and modifications.

RACKING

You may use a personally-owned rack (eg. Magic Rack, Delta Rack). You may NOT deny your opponent the use of a personally-owned rack. If a personally-owned rack is used, it is not required for every game, and the owner of the rack must permit the opponent to use it at any time during that match. If a template rack is used (eg. Magic Rack), the template should only be removed by the shooting team. Any balls disturbed during the removal of a template rack must be restored, and **there is no penalty for touching the cue ball while removing the rack**. If one or more balls interferes with the removal of a template rack, it is recommended to leave the rack in place until the balls are moved during the course of the game.

BREAKING

When it is your team's turn to break, either player may break. The team not breaking may choose either player to take the first shot for their team. You are not required to maintain the order of play from any preceding game.

CONTINUING PLAY

After the break, players on a team alternate shots during their inning. The order of play **MUST** be maintained between innings.

If a player shoots out of turn it is a foul. Any player on either team, regardless of whose turn at the table it is, may call a foul, inquire whose turn it is, or inquire what group they have.

COACHING

Open communication/coaching **IS** permitted between teammates during their turn at the table. However, the non-shooting player must remain in or at his/her chair and **may not approach the table**. Coaching cannot result in slower than normal play.

SLOW PLAY – SPEED PLAY BONUS

Slow play is unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated. Slow play quickly turns a fun match into long, painful ordeal. As a **GENERAL** guide, there should be no more than 45 seconds between each shot. This does not include the first shot after the break. To combat slow play, the league has instituted a **SPEED PLAY BONUS**. Each team automatically receives speed play bonus points for each match played. If, in the opinion of league officials, a team **CONSISTENTLY** uses more than 45 seconds between shots, that team will be given a warning for slow play. If the team continues to play slow, that team will forfeit their bonus points for that match only. Any team that forfeits bonus points twice in a season is subject to removal from the league. If you feel that your opponents are playing slow, let a league official know immediately.

CELL PHONES

All players should be focused on their match and not their cell phone. Please limit cell phone use to a minimum during a match. Use of a cell phone or any other electronic communication device by a shooter **who is at the table** is a violation and it is very unsportsmanlike. Use of such a device while shooting to receive information by someone other than the shooter's partner is **CHEATING** and grounds for dismissal from the league. Using a cell phone, etc. while shooting causes an unnecessary delay that is disrespectful to your teammate, your opponents, and the league in general. The league recommends that you do not carry any communication devices on your body **while at the table**. Please turn off all audible ringers and other notification tones during the match to minimize distraction of nearby players. If your opponent uses a communication device while they are shooting, politely remind them that it is a violation to do so. Each subsequent violation by either player on the team that was warned is a foul.

LEAGUE FEES

Weekly league fees must be paid to the treasurer before the start of the match. No pay, no play, no exceptions.

(PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR SPORTSMANSHIP)

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship lies at the heart of any endeavor involving competition. In many games of pocket billiards, players meet on the table in a contest that takes place in an environment that is unique in sports in one significant aspect - players are often required to tell each other exactly what is about to happen and what their intentions are before they act.

Many of the problems involving controversy between players could have been prevented if the players had been communicating effectively. Far too many disputes involve nothing more than whether or not a safety was declared or which pocket or ball was called. The difficulty can often be traced to players who simply do not practice good and polite communication at the table. The BCAPL rules have been designed to reduce the number of disputes. However, it is impossible to control the issue completely with rules. The solution lies with you – the players. We encourage you to dedicate yourself to open, friendly and polite communication during your match:

- When you are at the table, pay attention to how your shot appears. If you think there is a chance that your opponent might not understand your intentions, please call the shot.
- When you do call shots, please do so clearly. It is preferable to face your opponent and make eye contact. If you do call a shot by gesture, make a clear and definite motion indicating both ball and pocket.
- When you are in the chair, you should pay attention to the game and to your opponent. Communication is a two way street! If your opponent is telling you what they intend to do, listen carefully and clearly acknowledge that you understand. If you do not understand, get clarification.
- Do not let personality conflicts affect your efforts at communication. It does not matter how you feel about your opponent – you must always commit yourself to open and civil conversation and communication during your match.

Remember that your opponent has the right to know what you are doing while you are at the table. If you do not want to stop and answer questions, you can prevent that by communicating freely and clearly. As the person in the chair, you must remember that while you have the right to know what the shooter is attempting, you cannot interrupt them after they are down on a shot. If you sense a situation developing in which you might have a question, try to ask it early. At the same time, remember that you cannot use the requirement of communication in an unsportsmanlike manner. You should know what a clearly obvious shot is. Do not ask unnecessary questions in such a situation.

When playing call shot games, remember that shots defined as not obvious, and safeties, must be explicitly called. There are no exceptions under any circumstances, regardless of how simple or obvious the shot may appear. Shots that are NOT OBVIOUS include:

- bank shots
- kick shots
- combination shots
- jump shots
- shots that include caroms, kisses or cushion contacts that are not incidental

There may be other types of shots that must be called as well, depending on the circumstances. Also, please be sure to communicate clearly with your opponent when playing a safety.

Good communication is simply good sportsmanship, which is required of all players. Please practice it faithfully and consistently. It will make the game more enjoyable for all of us.