



Still a lot of teams not marking defensive shots.

Please read the information that was provided in your team captain's folder and share it with your teammates. Also go to the national web site, www.Poolplayers.com and watch the defensive shots video. It will open your eyes as to what should and should not be marked as defense. Marking defensive shots does not hurt the honest player. It catches the under rated players and gets them to the proper skill level. What could be more fun than playing a match where everyone is properly rated and anyone can win? Player's skill levels will be artificially raised for those teams consistently not keeping score properly. It's not a threat, it's a promise!

NUMBER OF TIMES YOU MUST PLAY

In order to advance to playoffs and tri-cups, you must play at least 4 times with your team this session.

Know Your Rule Book

(Official team manual page 55, section i) "Exercise caution when picking up or placing the cue ball in a **ball-in-hand** situation. The cue ball is always **alive**. If the cue ball, **or the hand holding or moving it**, touches another ball it is a cue ball foul and your opponent has **ball-in-hand**. Be especially careful when you are picking up or placing the cue ball in a tight spot." **Special note: in a tight situation, you can ask your opponent, a referee or a third party to pick up the cue ball.**

Congratulations!



Jonathan and Taryn Mattingly of Underground's "Money On The Table" in the Northwest Double Jeopardy Division announce the birth of their son, Chase Jonathan. The future APA member was born at 5:24 am on July 10. Chase weighed in at 7 lbs, 11 oz. Mom, Daddy and baby are all doing fine. Grandparents, Don and Darci Robertson, are pleased as punch.

\$\$\$ NEXT TO A PLAYER'S NAME

\$\$\$ next to a player's name means that player owes us money. It could be from a returned check or money owed from a previous session. That money needs to be paid or that person will not be allowed to play in playoffs or tri-cups and may not be allowed to return next session. Encourage your players to call the office to make arrangements to get this taken care of. In some cases, players have made arrangements with the league office to pay off this amount. Always check with the office before playing these players.

Common Sense

It never ceases to amaze me, what some teams want to argue about during league. Some people are so insistent on being right, that they go out of their way to fight to the bitter end instead of using common sense to make the night go smoothly and more enjoyable for everyone. Case in point. It is so easy to get distracted and possibly miss a ball when keeping score in 9-ball. Sometimes, it is so crowded in the host location, that the score keeper does not have a clear view of the table.

Here are some tips. First and foremost, the score keepers need to have the best seat in the house. If you cannot see from where you are sitting, move to a position that gives you a better view of the table, even if it is away from your team. The scorekeepers should save their socializing for later, when they are not keeping score and pay attention to what is happening on the match table. Common Sense!

Check the ball count after each and every rack with the opponent. If there is a discrepancy in the ball count, get it settled before the shooter breaks the next rack. (Remember innings and defensive shots do not have to match). If both score keepers have the same ball count for each player and there is a ball missing, first check with the players involved in the match to see if they remember who made what balls. If they do not remember or cannot agree, make the ball a dead ball and move on. Don't sit there and argue over one ball. Common Sense!

If the ball count is continually off, get a 3rd person to also keep score. The 3rd person can be from either team. They should also be sitting away from both teams. If a discrepancy arises, it can usually be settled instantly by comparing with the 3rd person. Generally, you will find that both scorekeepers will occasionally be off on the ball count, no matter how strongly you believe you always keep perfect score. Common sense!

The players involved in the match can help keep the scores straight by announcing to both teams when something unusual occurs, like making two balls in one shot ("2 fer"), making a ball and scratching ("one dead"), making an early 9-ball ("5 dead balls") or making a 9 on the break, plus 2 balls ("9-ball break, 4 points, 6 dead"). Common Sense!

Courtesy, Please!

Along with common sense, courtesy is a must. You and your teammates can make or break an evening of pool by the way you treat the other team. When your team is hosting the match at your location, don't hog all the good seats for yourselves. Make sure that both teams have an equal number of "good" seats around the match tables. We realize that not every location is perfectly set up for pool league, but by sharing the available seating, you can create a more relaxing atmosphere.

Talk to your bartender and make sure that they give everyone, including the visiting team, good service. We have heard of instances, where the bartender treats the home team great and basically ignores the visiting team.

Loud and obnoxious players should be sent home. This is generally caused by a little too much alcohol. If someone is stumbling down drunk, don't play them. They will slow things down, causing frustration by both teams. They will also generally be the first ones to want to argue the rules or argue about a "good hit, bad hit situation". Certainly, do not have them keep score! If they tend to get this way week after week, you should consider replacing them for next session. Their actions do reflect on the entire team, no matter how many times you apologize for them.

Keep an eye on times. 7:00 is start time for the Monday through Thursday teams, 2:00 pm for the Sunday divisions. This is real time, not bar time. 2 minutes to get the next race started. 20 second shot clock. One minute time outs. If things get behind, start the next race on another table, if available, to keep the momentum going and get the match completed in a timely manner.

Be aware that your good time, may not be viewed as a good time by your opponent. There are teams that you can joke and goof around with and there are teams that take things a little more seriously and may take offense to your "fun time". Not everyone will appreciate your sense of humor. They may need to lighten up, but you need to be sensitive to their competitiveness.

Next week, we will continue our "Road to Vegas" series highlighting the Master's format