

# **OHCC Billiard Club 8-Ball Rules**

March 16, 2017

- ❖ Object of the game: sink all your balls (solids or stripes) and then sink the 8.
- ❖ The Rack. The 8 is spotted directly behind the head ball. A stripe and a solid will be on the two lower corners of the triangle. The other balls are placed without purposeful or intentional pattern.
- ❖ Calling your shots. 8-Ball is a call shot game, except on the break.
- ❖ The Break Shot.
  - If you sink a ball without fouling you keep shooting and the table remains open.
  - If no object ball is pocketed on the break, at least four object balls must be driven to the rail. If not, the opponent may
    - Accept the table in position, or
    - Rerack and break, or
    - Rerack and make the original shooter break again.
  - Pocketing the eight ball on a legal break shot WINS THE GAME.
  - If the breaker fouls in any other way, his opponent may accept the balls in position or take the cue ball in hand behind the head string.
- ❖ Open Table. After the break, if the shooter legally pockets his called ball, the corresponding group becomes his. If he fails to legally pocket his called ball, the table remains open and play passes to the other player. When the table is "open", any object ball may be struck first except the eight ball.
- ❖ Safety. Safeties are allowed.
- ❖ Spotting Balls. Balls are NEVER spotted.
- ❖ Loss of the game. The shooter loses if he drives the 8 off the table or if he sinks the 8 illegally, including if he properly sinks the 8 but scratches. (If he scratches while missing his shot on the 8, he does not lose.)
- ❖ Standard Fouls. Scratch, wrong ball first (the first ball contacted by the cue ball on each shot must belong to the shooter's group), no rail after contact, no foot on floor, ball driven off the table. Penalty = ball in hand, anywhere on the table (except 4c).
- ❖ "Key Ball". Key Ball is 8-Ball with a twist. The 1 and 15 are racked behind the 8, away from their pocket. The 1 ball must be sunk in the two pocket, and the 15 in the five pocket. If you sink your key ball in any other pocket, it is spotted and you continue to shoot. If your opponent sinks your key ball, it stays down.