



# Tips on Pool Etiquette



Many billiard enthusiasts, especially beginners and novice players, are unfamiliar with the unwritten rules of pool etiquette. Breaking one of these rules, while almost always unintentional, can result in arguments and hard feelings between the players and/or teams involved in a match. To avoid these awkward situations, try to keep the following guidelines in mind.

## Handling Differences of Opinion / Rule Debates

- If your opponent questions a rule or is unsure of something, don't take it personally or get offended, simply offer to hold the match up while they call and **consult** the Division Rep or call the League Office for an official ruling and/or clarification.
- If your opponent(s) question a player's skill level, don't take it as a personal insult or get upset, simply hand them a Skill Level Evaluation Request form and ask them to feel free to fill it out and turn it in.
- If you or your opponent **consult** a Division Rep and think they're making the wrong call, don't argue over it, simply call the League Office. Don't forget -- a Division Rep can make suggestions, but the League Office is the final authority.

## Respect for your opponent:

- Always wish your opponent good luck before the match begins.
- When your opponent is shooting, stay away from the table and out of his/her line of sight.
- Don't wait to be asked if you committed a foul. Players with integrity tell their opponents when they have fouled and have ball-in-hand or hand them the cue ball.
- Never pull the fire alarm just as your opponent is about to shoot, unless there really is a fire.
- Try not to carry on a conversation with a player who is in the address position.
- Never lick the tip of your opponent's cue.
- Always get confirmation of ball-in-hand fouls before picking up the cue ball.
- Never hide the 8-Ball in your drink and wait for your opponent to notice.
- The first thing you should do at the end of the match is shake your opponent's hand - win or lose!

## Respect for the location:

- Always respect the equipment - table, balls, cues.
- Do not slam balls around or bang house cues on the floor or table.
- When breaking, take care not to dig the tip of your cue into the cloth, as it can easily be ripped.
- Do not set drinks on the tables.
- Do not sit on the rails.
- Pay attention to what's happening around the table. If someone is in the way of a shot, wait for them to move or politely ask them to move.
- Be courteous and polite to the staff.