

Our Blackball Pool Rules - Summary



Objective of the Game - The player or team potting their own group of balls then legally pots the black wins the game

Break – for a legal break either a ball(s) is potted, or two balls reach the center line

- 1st break is decided by the toss of a coin. The player who wins chooses to break, or pass it to their opponent
- Failure to do either is a rerack and the same player breaks
- Rerack - if the black ball is potted off the break
- Foul - if the cue ball is potted or driven off the table

Determining Groups - Colour group is determined by the 1st legally potted ball

- **Open table** - after the break the table is deemed 'open' and remains open until a player pots a legal ball(s) from only one group - the ball potted decides the colour group of that player
- Colour group is not assigned - if balls from both groups are potted on a shot
- Colour group is not assigned - on a free shot following a foul
- In blackball, players do not need to nominate any shot they are about to play

Continuing Play - Player stays at the table while continuing to play legal shots, or until the frame ends

- **Touching a cushion** – at some point during a shot, a ball must touch a cushion; failure to do so is a foul.
- If a player does not pot a legal ball - the turn passes to their opponent playing the cue ball from its current position
- Playing a free shot after a foul - a player may first strike or even pot a ball from an opponent's group
- After a free shot play continues with a normal visit to the table
- Where no legal shot is playable, whether by accident or design the frame is restarted (rerack)

Combination Shots - You can hit your ball 1st and pot balls from both colour groups

- The player must strike a ball from their own group 1st (unless a free shot has been awarded)
- It does not matter which colour group falls into pockets first
- Combination shots can also be played involving the black ball providing there are no balls from the player's own group left on the table. Potting the black when there are still balls on the table is a loss of frame.

Touching Ball - The cue ball must be played away from the touching ball

- **Cue ball is touching your colour group** – the cue ball must be hit away and any ball only needs to touch a cushion
- It follows that in playing away from a touching a ball of your own group, the cue ball may then legally proceed to hit an opponent's group ball. This is possible because the player is deemed to have first struck the touching object ball from his or her own group
- **Cue ball is touching your opponent's ball** – the cue ball must be hit away from the touching ball and hit a ball from your colour group. Any ball must also touch any cushion

Loss of Frame - Under certain circumstances a player may automatically lose the frame.

- Pots the black ball on a shot that leaves any of his or her group of balls on the table
- Does not attempt to hit a ball from their own colour group
- Deliberately touches or picks up a ball when not entitled to do so

Unsportsmanlike Conduct - Intentional behaviour which disrupts the game that fair play is affected

- This includes distracting an opponent, intentionally miscuing, marking the table, using equipment inappropriately
- The referee might issue a warning, call a standard foul, declare loss of frame, or the loss of a match

REFEREES DECISION IS FINAL