



Billiards Rules

The following are the definitive rules of Billiards for the 2024 Massachusetts DeMolay Billiards Tournament. No rules outside of this rule set applies. Minor questions of interpretation, vagueness in these rules, or missing rules shall be appealed to the game referee. Major questions shall be appealed to a panel of three State Officers, who's ruling shall be final and applied prospectively to all future games.

Terminology

Scratch - A scratch is one of the following:

1. During play, the cue ball is sunk into a pocket;
2. The player fails to make the cue ball collide with one of their own balls;
3. The player makes the cue ball collide with the opposing team's ball before making contact with their own ball; or
4. The cue ball is hit off the table.

Balls - Games will be played with:

1. Seven (7) solid balls (balls numbered 1-7);
2. Seven (7) striped balls (balls numbered 9-15)
3. One (1) black ball numbered "8" and called the "Eight Ball"; and
4. One (1) white ball with no numbers called the "Cue Ball".

General Rules

- 15-minute time limit
- If the time limit is reached, the winner is determined by which player has the most balls sunk
- Playoffs & finals have no time limit
- Single elimination
- One foot must be on the floor at all times
- Single elimination
- Immediate Loss
 - The Eight Ball can only be sunk once a player has sunk all of their assigned balls
 - In regular play, the Eight Ball may be sunk once out of turn. If it is, it will be placed by the referee on the center of the table or as close as possible. Sinking the Eight Ball a second time will result in an automatic loss.
 - During the Finals and Semifinals, sinking the Eight Ball once out-of-turn will result in an automatic loss.

Order of Play

1. Players will determine who gets to break by coin toss. The oldest player will call “heads” or “tails” and if the coin lands on the face they called, they break. If not, the other player breaks.
2. The referee will rack the balls and the player who won the coin toss will place the cue ball behind the break line. They then will break the rack. A break will only be illegal if the eight ball is sunk during the break.
3. Players will then alternate attempting to sink a ball. Once a player sinks one ball, they will be assigned that set of balls (ie. if they sink a solid ball, they will be assigned the solids). Their turn continues until they fail to sink a ball.
4. Once a player sinks all their assigned balls, they will then attempt to sink the eight ball.
5. The player who sinks the eight ball at the end of the game wins.